

The SPORTS PINK

55p

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CHERRIES: HOWE'S MEN FALL TO DEFEAT AT WIGAN

WIGAN 3 CHERRIES 0 Report: page 5



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JANUARY SALES ...

WHICH SIGNINGS HAVE
BEEN THE HITS AND WHICH
THE MISSES FOR SAINTS?

PAGES 10-13



BIRTHDAY BASH

*Lallana gets his
mum the perfect
present – the
deciding
goal
in a
Saints win*

SAINTS 1 WEST BROM 0

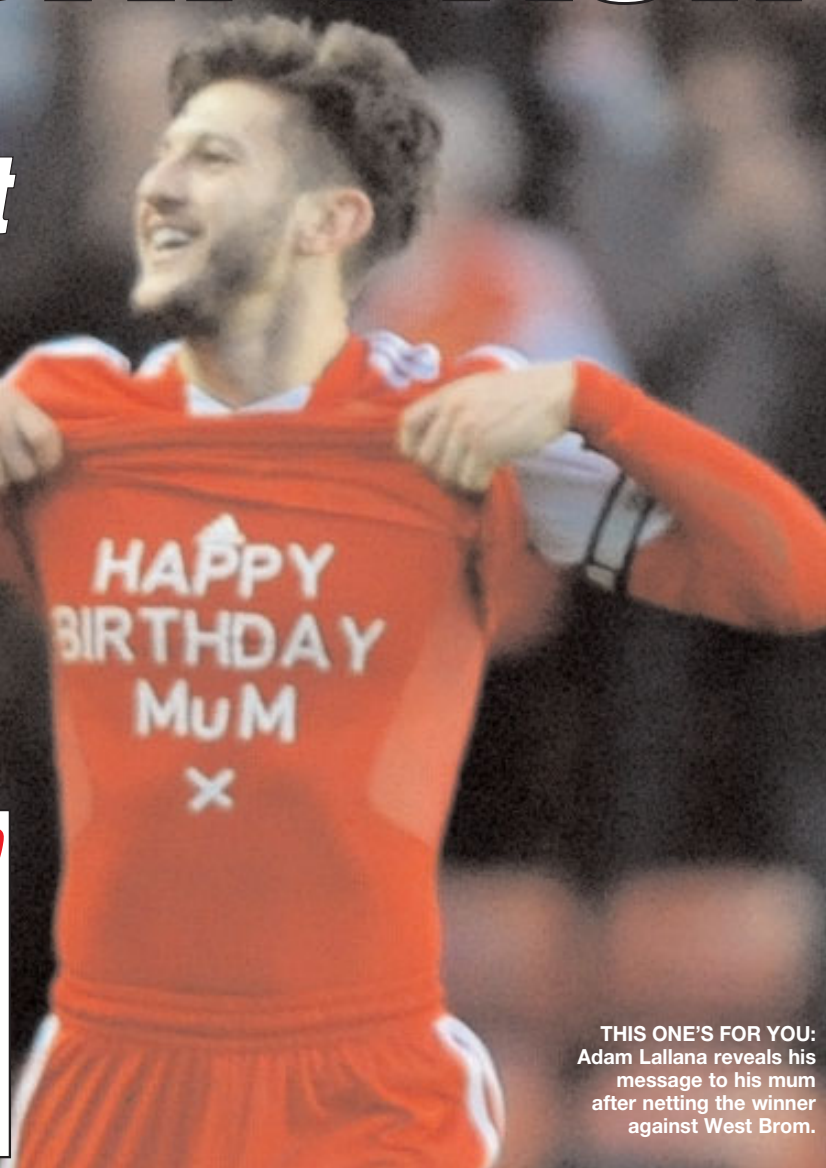
SAINTS picked up their first home league win since the start of November as they defeated West Brom 1-0 at St Mary's.

In a game in which Saints were always on top but struggled to create chances against a well organised West Brom side, watched from the direc-

tor's box by their newly appointed manager Pepe Mel, it took the second half introduction of Gaston Ramirez to spark a goal.

He flicked a great pass round the corner to Adam Lallana who delivered what proved to be the winner on 66 minutes.

● FULL STORY AND PICTURES:
PAGES 2-3



THIS ONE'S FOR YOU:
Adam Lallana reveals his message to his mum after netting the winner against West Brom.

TERRY PAINE



Saints legend's
EXCLUSIVE column

See pages 8-9

SAINTS



Cup nostalgia
picture special

See pages 22-27

NON-LEAGUE



All the latest non-
league news

See pages 16-21

FIND THE BALL FOR A WHOPPING £37,000 JACKPOT: PAGE 36

Saints Spotlight



WINNER: Adam Lallana celebrates with Saints teammates after scoring.



UP FOR IT: Luke Shaw.

SAINTS 1 WEST BROM 0: GASTON

GAS POWER: IS CATALYST

SAINTS picked up their first home league win since the start of November as they defeated West Brom 1-0 at St Mary's.

In a game in which Saints were always on top but struggled to create chances against a well organised West Brom side, watched from the director's box by their newly appointed manager Pepe Mel, it took the second half introduction of Gaston Ramirez to spark a goal.

He flicked a great pass round the corner to Adam Lallana who delivered what proved to be the winner on 66 minutes.

It was a patient start from Saints who were controlling possession, moving the ball across the back line and dominating the game.

Adam Lallana produced a trademark piece of trickery on eight minutes to turn back inside and get away a right footed shot from just outside the area but it was straight at Ben Foster who made the save.

He was at it again two minutes later as a chipped cross from inside the penalty area deflect-

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CHIEF SPORTS REPORTER

ed to Rickie Lambert who dragged his shot across goal and wide.

Steven Davis was the next to have a go with a half volley from 25 yards but it flew well wide.

West Brom were struggling to make much of an impact on the game going forward.

Saints were pressing them and they weren't holding onto the ball, but they were fairly well organised.

That meant that despite all their possession Saints were struggling to create a clear cut chance to prise open the Baggies backline.

West Brom did manage an effort on 27 minutes.

It came from a long range central free kick which Steven Reid nailed but it went just over the bar.

Dejan Lovren became the first player in the book for bringing down Shane Long as he tried to break down the right wing.

Lambert tried his luck from distance with a well struck shot from 25 yards out that Foster was able to get his body behind and collect.

The game really was struggling for much life and desperately needed some inspiration to liven it up.

The atmosphere at St Mary's was also pretty quiet and flat with very little to get excited about on the pitch.

Mauricio Pochettino was getting visibly more agitated as he prowled in his technical area, hoping for something to help Saints change gear.

They were doing the basics fairly well but with little spark in an attacking sense to create



anything in the final third against a team who were looking to dig in.

Lambert attempted to conjure something as he tried a very tough volley from a dropping ball but it was off target.

In first half stoppage time Nathaniel Clyne squared the ball to Jay Rodriguez who half volleyed first time from the edge of the area but it went over the bar.

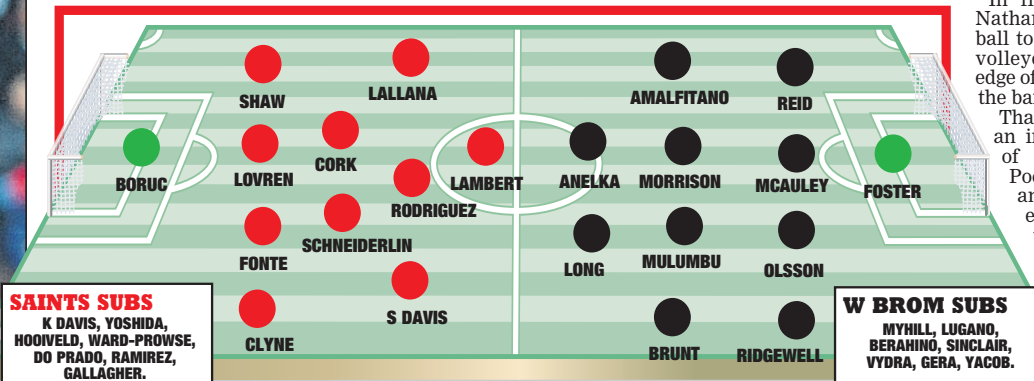
That was the final action of an instantly forgettable half of football and gave Pochettino the chance to try and inspire something extra from his men during the break.

Saints clearly tried to come flying out of the traps.

They were motivated, really working hard to press their opponents and trying to attack.

However, it just seemed one of those days where it wasn't quite happening for them and they were just searching for that one lift they required.

They knew that if they could get a goal then West Brom would have to open up and attack and that might totally



ARTUR Boruc came straight back into the Saints side to face West Brom after a six-week absence.

The Polish stopper had been ruled out with a fractured hand but was brought immediately back into the team at the expense of Kelvin Davis.

TEAM NEWS

That was one of five changes from the side that defeated Burnley in the FA Cup.

Regular centre halves Jose Fonte and Dejan Lovren were

back in, as were Adam Lallana and Jay Rodriguez with Maya Yoshida, Jos Hooiveld, James Ward-Prowse and Gaston Ramirez the men to miss out.

Guly do Prado was among the subs after two and a half months out following a knee operation.

SAINTS v WEST BROM REACTION - SEE PAGES 4-5

Saints Spotlight

IS GAME CHANGER AGAINST THE BAGGIES

RAMIREZ FOR WIN



ABOVE: Adam Lallana is brought down.

LEFT: Adam Lallana fires in the winner.



change the game.

As it was the Baggies continued to be extremely compact and solid and made themselves very hard to break down, even if they were offering very little going forward.

Saints' hard work earned them a good chance of the game on 51 minutes as Rodriguez dispossessed Youssouf Mulumbu and broke forward. He had a clear sight of goal as he reached the edge of the area but his finish was wayward.

Shane Long was the first West

Brom player in the book as he picked up a yellow card for a foul on Morgan Schneiderlin.

Saints made a first change to try and create something on 63 minutes with Gaston Ramirez coming on for Jack Cork. Steven Davis dropped into the holding role alongside Schneiderlin with Ramirez in the attacking trio behind Lambert.

Ramirez had a chance from a 25-yard free kick just three minutes after coming on but though he beat the wall it was a relatively simple save for

Foster to make.

The Uruguayan provided the spark of inspiration Saints needed and they took the lead 66 minutes.

Clyne had the ball and played it down the right wing to Ramirez. He produced a wonderful curling high pass on the turn that picked out Lallana who was in behind and he duly controlled and finished low past Foster for 1-0.

He lifted up his shirt to reveal the message 'Happy Birthday Mum' to the thousands at St Mary's.

Jonas Olsson got booked for bringing down Lallana as he tried to break with the emphasis of the game having shifted onto the Baggies to come out and attack.

They made a switch to try and make that happen on 77 minutes with Saido Berahino replacing Anelka. That was followed four minutes later with Zoltan Gera coming on for



JUMP: Dejan Lovren competes for a high ball.

Gareth McAuley.

James Ward-Prowse was introduced to the action for Lallana before a final Baggies change that saw Matej Vydra on for Morgan Amalfitano for the final four minutes.

Arut Boruc marked his return to the side with a remarkable save as it seemed West Brom would equalise.

Liam Ridgewell played a low cross from the left into the six-yard box where it seemed certain that Long would turn home but somehow Boruc managed to save with his legs to prevent an equaliser.

Ramirez broke away up the other end but his chipped effort landed in the arms of Foster before a change at the start of four minutes of stoppage time as Guly do Prado made his injury comeback for Rodriguez.

West Brom piled on a bit of late pressure but Saints withstood it to take a valuable three points.



ABOVE: Morgan Schneiderlin battles for the ball.

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READ TERRY PAINE ON PAGES 6-7

Saints Spotlight

SAINTS GIVE BAGGIES BLUEPRINT



POCHETTINO

Poch hails Ramirez impact

MAURICIO Pochettino was delighted to see Saints get back to winning ways at St Mary's with a 1-0 victory over West Brom.

The Saints boss believes his side were full value for the three points, a first home league win since early November.

He said: "It's actually really great to get back to winning ways here at St Mary's."

"I am very happy and very happy with the team's performance."

"I think it was a great victory and the team fully deserved the win. I want to congratulate my players because they did ever so well."

"It's great to get back to winning ways here."

He added: "I think overall the first half we played very well and had full control of the game."

"The substitution in the second half with Gaston I think was very good and gave us a lot of dynamism in the team. The assist to Lallana was great."

"Overall we had a great second half as well."



GOING FOR GOAL: Adam Lallana has a shot past West Bromwich Albion's Youssouf Mulumbu.

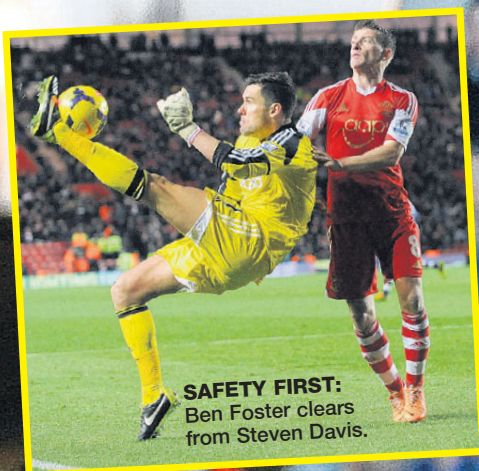


FULL STRETCH: Artur Boruc is put under late pressure by a West Brom attack.

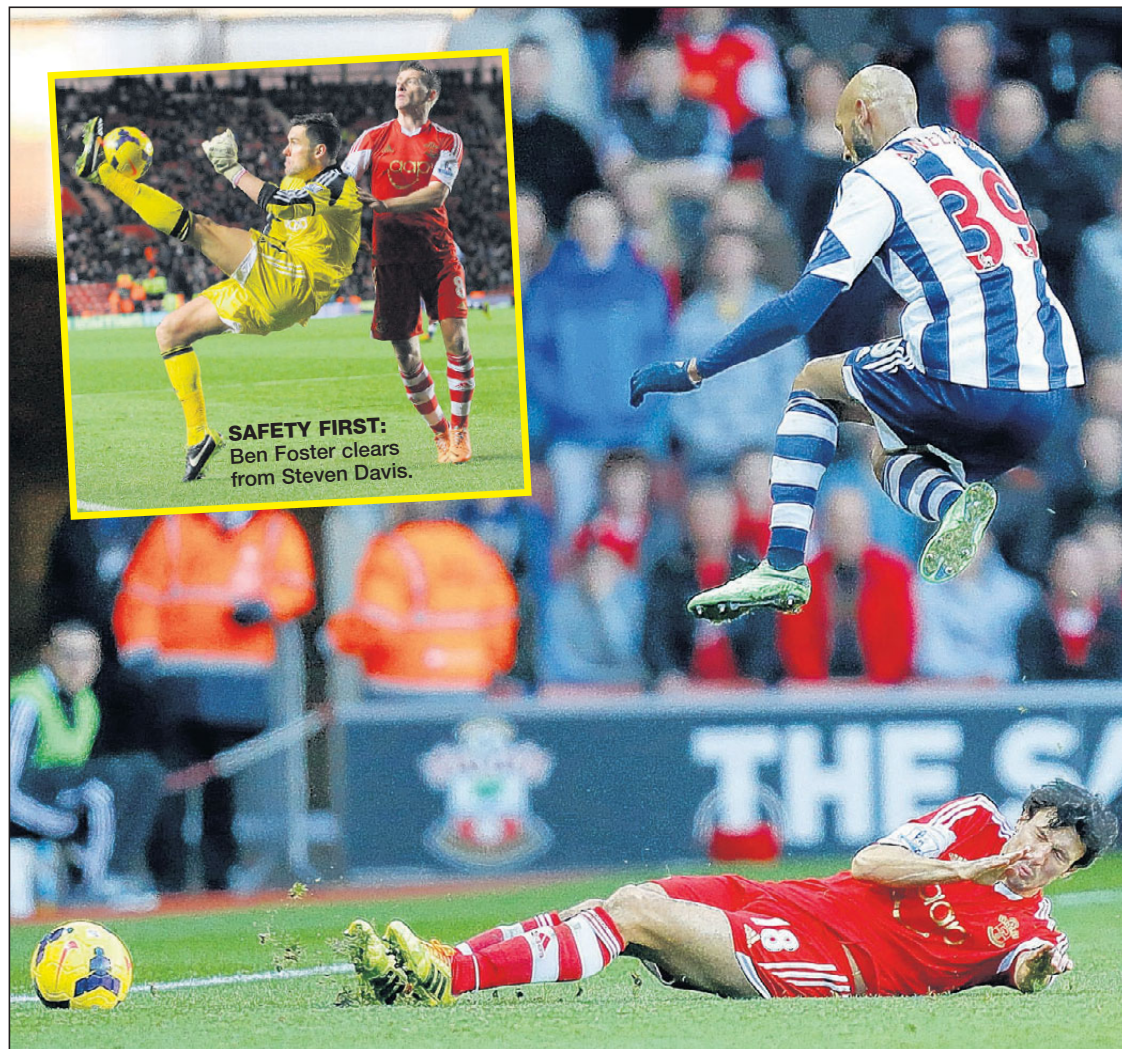
LATEST PREMIER LEAGUE STANDINGS - SEE BACK PAGE

Saints Spotlight

FOR THE FUTURE



SAFETY FIRST:
Ben Foster clears
from Steven Davis.



HIGH JUMP: West Bromwich Albion's Nicolas Anelka jumps over Southampton's Jack Cork to avoid a clash.

AS West Brom's caretaker-manager ended his brief spell in charge, there were shades of Steve Wigley's ill-fated stint as Saints boss – and a reminder of how far the club has come since then.

Keith Downing cast an uncanny resemblance to Wigley as he patrolled West Brom's technical area while his sixth and final game as interim manager ended in defeat to Mauricio Pochettino's team.

Like Wigley a decade ago and Stuart Gray a few years earlier, Downing was promoted from No 2, albeit temporarily, while West Brom sought their long-term replacement for Steve Clarke.

As Saints did a year ago next week, they have taken the Spanish option. Pepe Mel is the new incumbent at the Hawthorns and oversaw this contest from the stands.

He will not have been surprised at the progress made by Saints in the last year, having been in the opposite dugout on a few occasions when his

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Real Betis side took on Pochettino's Espanyol in La Liga.

This latest meeting was not high on entertainment, particularly during a dire first half.

But Pochettino's side showed how much they have progressed since his reign began with a goalless draw against Everton 12 months ago.

It would be wrong to say Saints never gain any 'ugly wins' now that they are playing such fluent, pleasing-on-the-eye football.

But it is fair to say they clinched the three points against West Brom despite a performance that was well short of their sparkling best.

Downing will no doubt return to his place in the West Brom boot room but it was not a bad day for all former No 2s.

At least Stuart Gray, Saints' erstwhile assistant, enjoyed a thumping win of his own, with Sheffield Wednesday.



GOOD CHANCE: Tokelo Rantie, left.

CHERRIES HIT THE BUFFERS

CHERRIES slumped to their first defeat in four as an impressive Wigan side ran out 3-0 winners at the DW Stadium this afternoon.

Uwe Rosler's side dominated the first half and Cherries were fortunate to go into the break only 1-0 behind, Marc-Antoine Fortune's strike after five minutes handing the hosts a deserved lead, **writes NEIL MELDRUM.**

But despite settling into the clash after a torrid opening 25 minutes, Elliott Ward's own goal just before the hour and substitute Jordi Gomez's long-range effort in stoppage time at the end of the clash saw Eddie Howe's men return to Dorset empty-handed.

Howe made one change from the side that drew 1-1 against Brighton on New Year's Day, with Marc Pugh dropping to the bench and Ryan Fraser starting on the left of midfield. Steve Cook returned to the bench following a spell on the sidelines with a hamstring injury.

Nick Powell fashioned the first chance of the game for the home side after four minutes when he shook off Simon Francis and bent a right-foot shot towards goal, but Cherries keeper Lee Camp saved.

And a minute later the Latics were in front when Fortune turned and blasted an unstoppable drive past Camp following good work down the left between Powell and Chris McCann.

As Rosler's men began to dominate, James McArthur skewed a right-foot shot from distance horribly wide, before Camp made himself big to superbly deny Callum McManaman.

Powell arguably should have made it 2-0 after 13 minutes but somehow managed to turn Fortune's cross from the left over the crossbar when well-placed inside the six-yard box.

Camp then saved well as the impressive Powell unleashed a dipping drive from around 25 yards. Cherries were barely able to venture into Latics territory such was the home side's dominance.

Matt Ritchie cut inside from the left on 25 minutes having been played in by Harry Arter, but his shot from the edge of the box was well saved by Ali Al Habsi. At the other end, Camp pounced a long-range effort from McArthur.

Lewis Grabban beat the offside trap to pick up Charlie Daniels's long ball ten minutes before half-

time, but the Cherries striker let the ball run too far in front of him and Al Habsi collected.

Camp saved well from Ben Watson's 25-yard free kick on 36 minutes after Ritchie had felled Powell, while McArthur fired straight at the Cherries keeper having run from deep inside his own half.

In first-half stoppage time, Grabban turned Francis's cross wide of the target.

The home side's appeals for a penalty after Eunan O'Kane had appeared to handle in the box were waved away by referee Geoff Eltringham shortly after the restart, before McArthur blazed wide from 20 yards. Half-time sub Ty Browning headed wide from Watson's corner.

Grabban's shot flashed across goal at the other end after good work from Arter and Ritchie, but, like the opening period, Cherries were still struggling to put together a meaningful spell of possession.

And the hosts made them pay when Fortune's shot from inside the box after 57 minutes was turned past Camp by Ward.

McCann should have put the game well out of reach on ten minutes later but his weak shot from inside the six-yard box following a pin-point cross from Jean Beausejour was snaffled by Camp.

Ritchie, having a quiet game by his standards, saw his shot 18 minutes from time deflected out for a corner, while Camp was equal to McArthur's drive two minutes later.

Substitute Tokelo Rantie should have given Howe's men a glimmer of hope on 76 minutes but, despite having space just inside the box, the South African fired wide after Daniels and substitute Pugh had linked well down the left. Pugh then shot straight at Al Habsi moments later.

Al Habsi was then on hand to deny Rantie eight minutes from time, smothering the Cherries man as he looked to pull the trigger having been played in by Pugh. Ward scooped a shot over the bar moments later after Brett Pitman's neat header had set up the centre-half.

But the hosts saved the best until last, Gomez curling home a stunning left-foot shot from around 25 yards in second-half stoppage time, although there was still time for Al Habsi to save well from both Grabban and Rantie.

Saints Spotlight

FAN PICS

Daily Echo photographer Stuart Martin snapped these fans before Saints' cup win over Burnley...



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Changing face

Simon Carter

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SPORTS EDITOR

SAINTS played their part in last weekend's FA Cup third round ties attracting the highest average attendance since the early 1980s.

Some 548,907 fans watched a total of 29 ties over the weekend, with three more left to play because of postponements, giving an average of 18,297 – the highest for that stage of the competition since 1979/80.

In fairness, though, Saints didn't play a particularly large part with a 15,077 crowd which was the club's third lowest gate in the competition since the move to St Mary's in 2001.

That was around half their Premier League average of just over 30,000 this season.

No other top flight club suffered a drop of around 50 per cent on their league average last weekend.

It hasn't always been this way at St Mary's.

Back in 2007/08, Saints – then in the Championship – attracted a crowd of over 25,000 for a fourth round tie against a Bury side fourth bottom of the whole Football League.

And in 2004/05, Saints were struggling in the Premier League but still drew a crowd of over 24,000 for a tie against two divisions lower Brentford.

Even in 2009/10, when Saints were a third division club, they drew almost 18,000 to St Mary's for a tie against non league opposition, Luton Town.

With those crowds in mind, Saints' attendance last weekend was disappointing.

Manchester United, unsurprisingly, attracted the largest crowd of the third round.

Swansea's first ever win at Old Trafford, thanks to a late goal from Wilfried Bony, was watched by 73,190 – just 2,000 down on the club's league average.

Arsenal were also close to a capacity crowd, but that was no shock at all as they were home to neighbours Tottenham.

The Gunners' 2-0 win was watched by 59,476 supporters.

Elsewhere, a superb crowd of 44,103 were at Anfield where Liverpool beat Oldham.

That was only 500 down on the club's average, a superb effort given the fact the visitors were a third division club.

Saints 'lost' around 15,000 fans from their average crowd, but there were some mitigating circumstances.

The weather was truly appalling, the opposition was lower division, and adult tickets were £20 – £22 if bought on the day of the game.

Saints could do nothing about the



weather or the draw, and their hands might have been tied in terms of how much they could charge for tickets.

It is easy to say Saints should have slashed the admission prices in a bid to get even more fans into the stadium.

If they had halved the prices they did actually charge across the board, would they have brought in the same amount of money by doubling their gate?

It is doubtful.

And anyway, it is not up to Saints and Saints only. They have to agree the ticket prices with their opponents.

West Bromwich Albion also suffered around a 50 per cent drop in their average home league crowd for the FA Cup visit of Crystal Palace.

The Baggies could muster just 12,700, compared to a league average of over 24,000.

Newcastle, averaging over 50,000 in the top flight, attracted a crowd of just over 31,000 for their loss to

Cardiff. Aston Villa's crowd of just over 24,000

for their shock loss to two divisions lower Sheffield United was around 13,000 under average.

Stoke's 16,844 crowd for the visit of Championship high-fliers Leicester was around 8,000 under average.

It would have been nice if Saints and Yeovil could have agreed some cheaper prices for their fourth round clash at St Mary's later this month.

But no, the prices will be the same as they were for Burnley's visit.

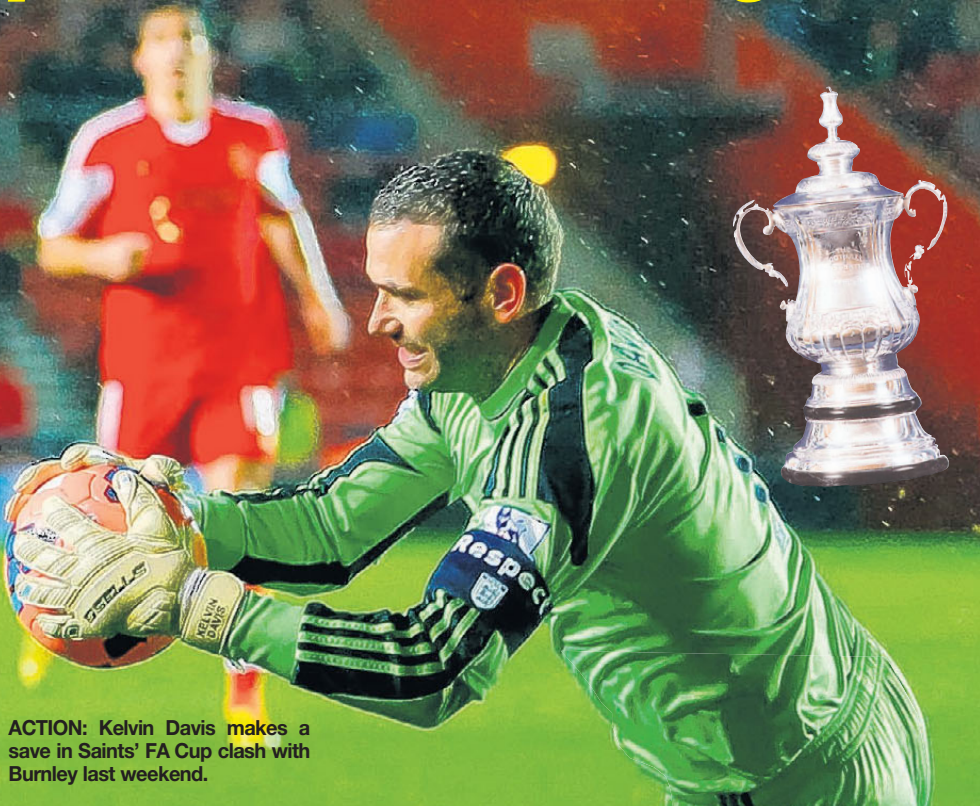
Little over three years ago, in

THE PINK & DAILY ECHO: BEST FOR SAINTS NEWS AND VIEWS

Saints Spotlight

of the new FA Cup

The grand old competition is still trying to find its place in the modern game



ACTION: Kelvin Davis makes a save in Saints' FA Cup clash with Burnley last weekend.

March 2011, Saints attracted a crowd of 18,623 for a midweek third division match against Yeovil.

I wouldn't be surprised if the crowd for the FA Cup tie is lower. Predicting football attendances is not an exact science, however.

Yeovil will bring more fans than Burnley did – possibly around 3,000 – and, in contrast to last Saturday, it might be a lovely sunny day.

But clubs need to do more to fill all those extra seats, rather than just hoping for a favourable draw or some sun?

Is it possible to do that, or is it not even worth bothering?

The FA Cup, of course, has undergone some major changes from the competition many generations of fans aged over 40 grew up with.

Remember the famous Arsenal v

Sheffield Wednesday tie in the bitterly cold winter of 1978/79 which spanned five third round ties?

And Wednesday were a third division club at the time!

The following season, 1979/80, Arsenal needed four games to beat Liverpool in the semi-finals.

Saints were not exempt from marathon cup rounds either.

In 1977/78, two years after winning at Wembley, they needed a second replay at Leicester's Filbert Street in order to beat two divisions lower

Grimsby Town.

The FA put an end to such

marathons at the start of the 1991/92 season, ruling that all ties had to be settled by penalties at the end of a replay.

That was one rule change which made sense.

After all, what was the point in Saints and Grimsby fans having to

trek to a neutral venue hundreds of miles away?

It might be seen as strange, though, that the only two rounds which aren't decided by a replay any more are the semi-finals and final.

Surely it would make sense for all rounds to be decided on the day, with extra time and penalties?

It's been claimed that would help raise the number of upsets, with the common consensus being that a lower division team will only get one real chance to beat a higher division one.

The last FA Cup last four replay was the famous 1999 tie between Manchester United and Arsenal at Villa Park, settled by sub Ryan Giggs' stunning solo goal.

At the time United were down to ten men after skipper Roy Keane had been sent off.

The last FA Cup final to be decided by a replay was in 1993, when Arsenal beat Sheffield Wednesday 2-1.

Two years earlier, in 1991, Wembley had staged its first ever FA Cup semi-final.

It was a classic as well, Paul Gascoigne firing a stunning free kick to help Tottenham beat north London rivals Arsenal 3-1.

At the time it was viewed as a one-off, but Wembley was again used for a semi-final in 1993 when the two Sheffield clubs were paired together.

Now, since the start of the 2007/08 season, both semi-finals are played at the national stadium.

Does that dilute the final experience somewhat?

I guess the only people that can adequately answer that are the ones that have seen their team in both semi and final, but I would suggest it partly does.

It's not as if there are no stadiums capable of holding big games.

Both Old Trafford and Highbury were once regular venues for Cup semi-finals.

The former is now a far bigger stadium in terms of capacity, while Arsenal's Emirates ground holds more fans than Highbury did in the 70s and 80s.

Of course, the FA and Premier League did not cover themselves in glory in 2011 when the FA Cup final took place on the same day as league

games.

As a result, we had the strange scenario of Manchester City lifting the FA Cup on the same day that cross-city rivals United clinched the Premier League.

So much for the FA Cup winners enjoying a day in the sunshine all by themselves.

Thankfully, that situation has not been repeated since, though the 5.15pm kick off for the final looks here to stay.

That's progress for you, I suppose ...

FAN PICS

Daily Echo photographer Stuart Martin snapped these fans before Saints' cup win over Burnley...



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Paine's World

The Saints legend's **EXCLUSIVE** column on all things football

OLE GAMBLES ON HIS ABILITY

MANY wonder why a stable minded man such as Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's would want to indulge in Vincent Tan's mad-house at Cardiff at a time when the Norwegian was enjoying a success-laden and peaceful life off the coast of Molde in his homeland.

The 40-year old former Manchester United great, who is still revered at Old Trafford like a cult figure, is certainly not a man who will take up the hot seat in the Welsh capital for no reason.

Here we are talking about a man who worked his socks off under Sir Alex Ferguson for 10 years and was one of the leading actors in Manchester United's golden generation of the late nineties.

Even after retiring from football, Solskjaer nurtured his coaching and managerial skills under the great Scotsman, who considers the Norwegian one of his most loyal students.

Having won three titles, two league championships and a cup in three seasons with Molde in his very first big managerial breakthrough, Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, pictured, has taken his time to plot his next step forward.

The former Norwegian international even tasted victory in his very first game in the Cardiff dug out last Saturday against Newcastle.

Vincent Tan is the unquestionable villain in the Malky Mackay sacking saga and the British press rightly bombarded the Malaysian entrepreneur for knowing nothing about the integrity of British football and the game itself.

Yet Tan is surrounded by people who want to do well for the club, people like club chairman Mehmet Dalman.

In all probability Solskjaer's appointment is his brainchild rather than Tan's.

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer is an astute reader of the game.

He has a gifted mind when it

comes to analysing opposition strengths and weaknesses.

A story goes round the Old Trafford folklore that the Norwegian, while sitting on the bench as a substitute, would analyse the entire game, looking for the opposition defenders' weak points before entering the field and winning the match for United with a deadly finish.

The 'Baby-faced assassin' is now back in the Premier League as a manager to test his mettle not just against Premier League opponents but also against a comical owner, who is more inclined to change club colours rather than buy useful players, to guide Cardiff to safety.

If anyone can stop this highly successful Malaysian businessman from ruining a very good football club it could be Solskjaer.

Already, in his first few days with the club, he has looked completely in control of the situation and doesn't seem to be allowing any influence from the Cardiff City boardroom to filter through.

Certainly, a Ferguson-esque start by the former Molde boss.

It is a bit surprising to note that when he had the opportunity to manage a more coveted club like Aston Villa in 2012, Solskjaer turned it down for the simple reason he did not want to unsettle his family from his Molde home.

It is in fact now a case of waiting for the right moment to step into the ruthless world of Premier League management and, for being the wonderful reader of the game that Ole is, it is entirely expected that one of Premier League's most lethal finishers wanted to have enough pedigree before managing a Premier League club.

Managing Cardiff City is his first shot at his most prime ambition, claiming the Old Trafford hot seat currently occupied by David Moyes.

For man as credible and astute as Solskjaer, being ambitious could be his most potent weapon.

Cardiff City, it seems, could be his gateway towards an assault on the most coveted job in world football.

The man himself has made no qualms about his ultimate aim.

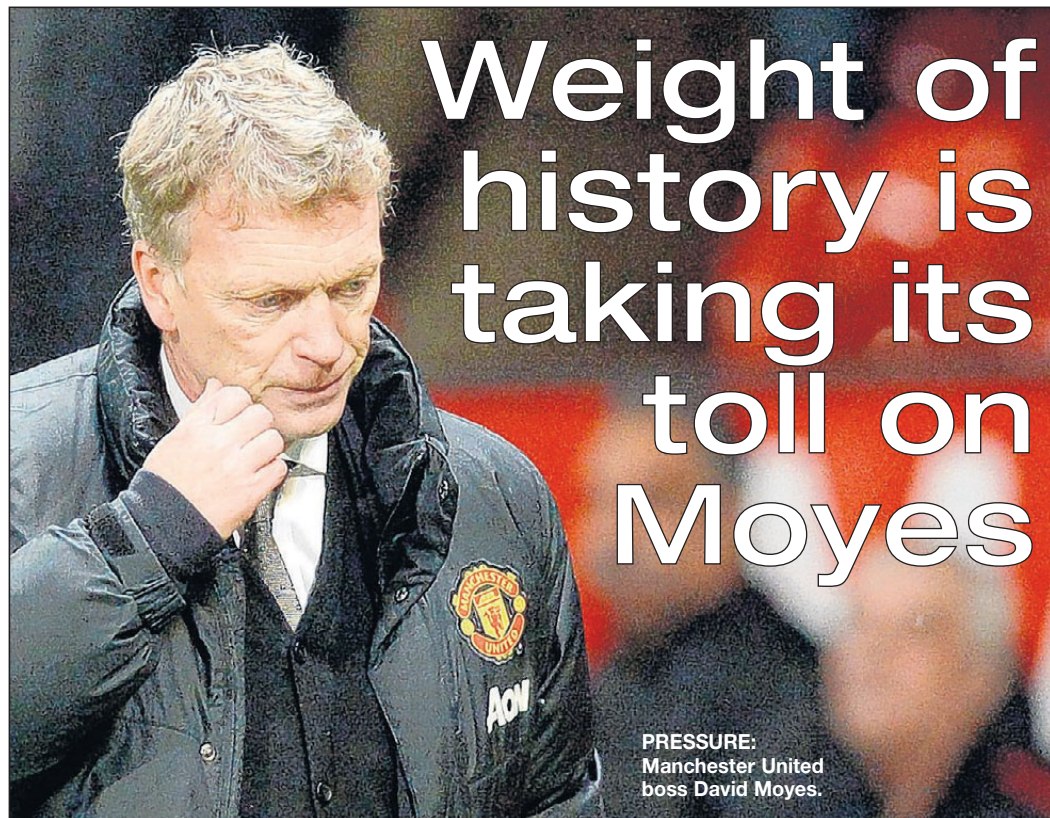
David Moyes was Sir Alex's handpicked successor.

The former Everton boss was rewarded with a six year contract and will be given ample time to follow in the footsteps of his predecessor.

What is apparent is that whoever is in charge of Manchester United needs a personality as strong and potent as Ferguson and, with 235 appearances for a club spanning a decade, Solskjaer certainly fits the bill.

Given his ruthlessness in being a great advert of the game just as he was during his playing days at Old Trafford, it's not hard to imagine United welcoming their first Norwegian manager in the years to come.



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Weight of history is taking its toll on Moyes

PRESSURE:
Manchester United
boss David Moyes.

THE New Year is only in its infancy, but already the pressure has been ramped up on David Moyes following what has been a dismal run of form, the worst for United in over a decade.

While three consecutive losses would hardly represent a crisis elsewhere, at Old Trafford where success has become entrenched, it has been painted as exactly that.

What is perhaps most surprising about these defeats is that neither of the three teams have needed to play especially well to see off their more illustrious opponents.

The truth is, United aren't that difficult to beat at present.

Their performance against Sunderland was about as lifeless a showing as you're likely to see from a Manchester United team.

There was no fight, no attacking verve and no fabled comeback as they meekly surrendered to a team that currently occupies the foot of the table. It remains to be seen how long this embarrassment will be allowed to continue.

It is, of course, early days still for David Moyes, who was brought in to bring stability to the club as they moved into uncertainty for the first time in 27 years.

He is just a matter of months into a six-year deal, which indicates that he will be given time.

It is what he does with that time and that backing that will define his legacy. For as it stands, he will be remembered as the man that brought the most successful club in the history of the English game to its knees.

Perhaps this is a bit harsh and sympathy must be shown for the quality of the squad he inherited.

This sympathy is tapered by his inability to select and buy the right players during the summer transfer window.

With sufficient time to assess his squad, his assertion that Marouane Fellaini was the missing link in a midfield that so clearly lacked creativity, showed a

naivety that is unforgivable.

He will be given a chance to redeem himself this month, but January is a notoriously difficult time to get players of the quality expected at Old Trafford. Those acquisitions will become even tougher in the summer should they fail to qualify for the Champions League, a prerequisite for the world's finest players.

This may be a defining time for Moyes as he looks to stamp his authority on his squad. One that will pass him by if he approaches with the mindset of a former Everton manager operating on a budget.

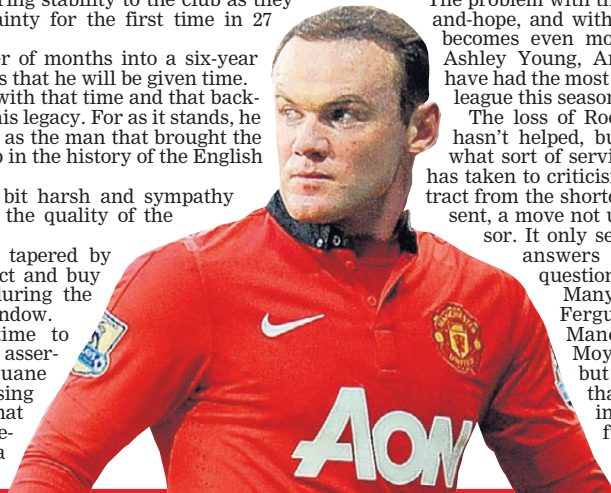
Despite his failings off the field, it is the shortcomings of his team on the pitch that must be of most concern for the fans that sing his name vociferously from the stands. Tactically he has shown an unwillingness to adapt from the blueprint that brought him moderate success at Everton.

Manchester United's reliance on crosses, where they have delivered a league high number, has turned them into a one-dimensional outfit.

The problem with this approach is it's a bit hit-and-hope, and without the right personnel, it becomes even more of a sweepstake. That Ashley Young, Antonio Valencia and Nani have had the most unsuccessful crosses in the league this season comes as no surprise.

The loss of Rooney, left, and Van Persie hasn't helped, but even upon their return what sort of service can they expect. Moyes has taken to criticising referees in a bid to distract from the shortcomings of his team at present, a move not uncommon to his predecessor. It only serves to highlight a lack of answers for some very pertinent questions.

Many have pointed out Sir Alex Ferguson's early record at Manchester United, and how Moyes compares favourably, but what they fail to mention is that Ferguson was not following one of the most successful era's the club has ever seen.



Can we put ref row behind us?

BEAUTIFUL SOUTH

BY DAREN WHEELER

WHO'D be a referee these days?

You can't win, can you? Your performance is examined in minute detail on television whilst the game is played at breakneck speed.

You have just one chance to get the decision right, so you'd be hard-pushed to not feel some sympathy for a match official.

With that in mind, are Saints being unreasonable in their pursuit of Mark Clattenburg?

No, they are not. In the modern game, referees are given far too much protection when it comes to criticism.

It's completely and utterly bizarre that any pundit on TV can repeatedly analyse and criticise a referee and yet the manager of the team that have been denied a goal/three points by his decision faces a fine or worse.

Either referees can be criticised or they can't, but it's patently ludicrous that referees seem to be immune to any criticism other than their own internal procedure.

The whole "furore" over what was said to Saints captain Adam Lallana does, on initial inspection, look to be a storm in a tea cup.

However, ask yourself if the shoe were on the other foot, so to speak.

Would Clattenburg be so accommodating if the Saints captain had been so allegedly cheeky with him?

I'd hazard a guess and say no.

I'd also hazard a guess and say there's more to Saints' complaint than meets the eye.

Meanwhile, much has been made of the possibility of Rickie Lambert leaving Saints for West Ham.

The press has been awash with rumours that the Saints legend could well be on his way to Upton Park if he wants to keep his dreams of playing for England alive. It's hard to think of a more abhorrent rumour than the man who has for the last four years been our talisman, our favourite son, leaving us for a team managed by Sam Allardyce.

Let's be honest here, the only reason Andy Carroll ever got mentioned for an England call up was that he was previously playing for Liverpool.

It's fair to say Carroll's slipped so far down the pecking order as to be out of the running for a place on the plane to Brazil.

If anything, playing first team football for West Ham would probably count AGAINST Rickie rather than for him.

All Rickie Lambert needs to do to secure a place on the plane to Brazil is score goals, it's that simple.

Score goals and you'll be flying to Brazil, as that's all that is required of an England striker.

What is not required is for a player to be involved in a relegation battle, which is what West Ham seem to be destined for.

When Saints got promoted with Reading and West Ham, much was

made of how the Hammers were Premier League quality and how Saints and Reading were destined to go straight back down again.

Reading did do just that, but Saints showed how it should be done.

Allardyce is West Ham's problem. He's certainly a manager to get you out of the Championship, but is as far removed from being a progressive Premier League manager as you can get.

At West Ham, he's being found out spectacularly, as he was at Newcastle.

When you're managing Bolton Wanderers, you can afford to play football to ensure survival.

When you're manager of West Ham, a club that, like Saints, has a proud history of playing football the way it should be, football isn't really an option.

West Ham are playing some horrific stuff and it shows in their results.

So what does Allardyce have to do with Saints? Why mention him?

Well, with the current furores involving Lambert and manager Mauricio Pochettino, it's only fair that we stop for a moment and take stock of our season.

As a group of fans, Saints fans don't do that enough.

Our form has, of late, slipped a bit, if only in terms of points on the board.

Much is being made of the January transfer window and who comes in and who goes.

In our journey to the Premier League, much was made of the clubs we battled with for promotion and how they were doing it right and we weren't.

What has happened to them over the last few years? Brighton, our nemesis in League One, are struggling to become more than a mid-table Championship side.

Reading, who came up on the outside lane to pip us in the Championship title race, went straight back down and are struggling to make the play-off places this season.

West Ham? Well, they're just an horrific mess aren't they?

My point? No matter what you may feel, this club is healthy, competitive and in good hands.

It was with Alan Pardew, it was with Nigel Adkins and it is with Mauricio Pochettino.

The players we've seen come and go over the last four years have served us well.

In short, dips in form happen.

There's no rhyme or reason to it, no magic formula to overcome it.

The simple fact is that only exceptional teams carry on the full season without some dip in form.

The fact that we've still managed to play some good football whilst going through it speaks volumes for the set up at the club and the people who run it.

January and February should be interesting...



STORM IN A TEACUP: Adam Lallana and referee Mike Clattenburg enjoy a chat.

Saints Spotlight

Sports Quiz

1. Who is the leading European man in the world golf rankings?
2. Which two county sides has Stuart Broad played for?
3. Paul Cook is manager of which League Two club?
4. Who was the last Frenchwoman to win the French Open women's singles title?
5. Which NBA side are based in Cleveland?
6. How many individual apparatus medals has British gymnast Louis Smith won in Olympic, World Championship and Commonwealth Games competition?
7. New Toronto FC signing Jermain Defoe started his professional career at which club?
8. Which snooker player is known as The Jester From Leicester?
9. Joe Ford, the brother of Bath fly-half George who was called up by England on Thursday, plays for which Aviva Premiership club?
10. Marcus North currently plays for which Big Bash team?
11. With which club did Ian Holloway begin his managerial career?
12. Which boxer, who died in 2013, famously broke Muhammad Ali's jaw in a 1973 bout?
13. Which South African won The Masters in 2008?
14. Who scored the overtime winner when Canada won Olympic ice hockey gold in Vancouver in 2010?
15. In what year did Tim Henman reach the semi-finals of the French Open?
16. Which was the first English club to be first to appoint Sam Allardyce as manager on a permanent basis?
17. Where does George Ford play his club rugby?
18. What injury has ruled Lindsey Vonn out of the Winter Olympics?
19. How old is new Cardiff signing Magnus Wolff Eikrem?
20. Where will next month's Super Bowl be played?
21. Which city hosted the 1998 Winter Olympics?
22. Which two German clubs did Thomas Hitzlsperger play for during his professional career?
23. Fly-half Rhys Patchell plays for which Welsh regional club?
24. Which county topped the Division Two standings in 2013?
25. In which year did Lleyton Hewitt reach the Australian Open final?

Answers: 1 Henrik Stenson (third); 2 Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire; 3 Chesterfield; 4 Mary Pierce (2000); 5 The Cavaliers; 6 Six (Two Olympic, three World Championship and one Commonwealth); 7 West Ham; 8 Mark Selby; 9 Sale; 10 Sydney Sixers; 11 Bristol Rovers; 12 Ken Norton; 13 Trevor Immetman; 14 Sidney Crosby; 15 2004; 16 Blackpool; 17 Bath; 18 Knee (ACL); 19 23; 20 East Rutherford, New Jersey; 21 Nagano, Japan; 22 Stuttgart and Wolfsburg; 23 Cardiff Blues; 24 Lancashire; 25 2005.

SAINTS' TRANSFER



With the opening of the January transfer window, there is sure to be rumours aplenty and maybe even a couple of additions to the Saints squad.

The window opened for the first time in 2003 when Saints splashed out £4m on two players – Danny Higginbotham and David Prutton.

Since that time, they have gone to complete 23 permanent January window signings.

Here, **ADAM LEITCH** looks back at the deals and decides whether they were a success or not.

2002/03

Danny Higginbotham, Derby, £1.25m

A Gordon Strachan signing right at the end of the first January transfer window, Higginbotham proved a versatile defender for Saints, operating at both left back and centre half.

Sadly for he and fellow January 2003 signing David Prutton, they joined Saints at the very peak of their most recent successes, and then were at the club as it all tailed off.

Higginbotham managed over 100 appearances for Saints before a move to Stoke where he enjoyed several more years of top flight football.

HIT

David Prutton, Nottingham Forest, £2.5m

An intriguing character who had a host of highs and lows at Saints.

Prutton initially promised s o

much and his gritty midfield performances suggested a career that would be spent at the highest echelons of the game.

However, it never quite happened for him.

The nadir at Saints came when he received a lengthy ban for shoving a linesman at St Mary's, which did-

n't help their doomed battle for Premier League survival.

There were good displays at Saints but he was eventually released, despite being one of the club's most expensive ever signings.

MISS

2003/04

Paul Smith, Brentford, £250,000

Life at Saints was very stop-start for Paul Smith.

He was a deputy for Antti Niemi and never really got going under his own steam when he got given the opportunities.

After two and half years at Saints, which had yielded just 22 appearances, he was sold to Nottingham Forest.

MISS

Stephen Craine, Celtic, £500,000

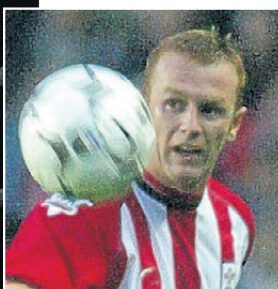
Gordon Strachan brought in Craine to give him another option at



HITS AND MISSES: Clockwise from left: David Prutton, Danny Higginbotham, Jose Fonte, Paul Smith, Jamie Redknapp, Stephen Craine and Nigel Quashie.

Saints Spotlight

HITS AND MISSES...



left back. But Strachan was gone within weeks and Crainey had left before the start of the next season. He featured in only five games for Saints, none of which they won.

MISS

2004/05

Jamie Redknapp, Tottenham, free

As Harry Redknapp battled desperately to build a squad capable of keeping Saints in the Premier

League he called upon son Jamie to come and help him out.

In truth, it was a case of nothing ventured, nothing gained as Redknapp junior cost nothing and then hung up his boots at the end of the season.

His signing at least gave Saints a bit of hope and he did put in some good performances in his brief stint of 17 games at the club and proved one of his dad's better St Mary's deals.

HIT

Nigel Quashie, Portsmouth, £2.1m

Whole-hearted footballer who crossed the Portsmouth divide to follow Redknapp over to St Mary's. He gave it a good go but couldn't help keep Saints up.

The midfielder was gone again a year later, joining West Bromwich Albion for almost £1m less than Saints had paid for him.

MISS

Olivier Bernard, Newcastle, £400,000

Another Redknapp signing to try to bolster Saints' survival prospects, but another that didn't pay dividends with Premier League relegation being confirmed.

Saints paid out £400,000 for the left back's services but he left just seven months later for Rangers.

MISS

2005/06

Bartosz Bialkowski, Gornik Zabrze, £50,000

Has been the subject of much scorn lately due to his display against Blackpool at St Mary's but when he was first recruited by George Burley and goalkeeping coach Malcolm Webster as a teenager from Poland so much was expected.

Bialkowski didn't have to wait for his chance either and was superb on his first run in the team, which was brought to a sad end by a tear of his cruciate ligament in an FA Cup game at Newcastle.

Bialkowski was never been quite the same though did give the club six years of service before he was released in 2012.

HIT

Jim Brennan, Norwich, free

Provided some brief cover at left back at the back end of the season but left when his short term contract expired just months after he joined.

MISS

Alexander Ostlund, Feyenoord, £400,000

Bit of a mixed bag at Saints. Became an iconic character because of his long hair and beard, having joined with a bit of a fanfare and expectation on his shoulders.

Didn't let anybody down when he played, but that wasn't too often.

In two and a half years at Saints he made just 49 appearances for the club but is still fondly remembered.

HIT

Fans upset at Friday night cup schedlue

COVENTRY supporters have reacted with frustration to their fourth-round FA Cup tie at Arsenal being designated a Friday night match.

The televised tie at the Emirates Stadium on January 24 will be the opening fourth-round clash, the first of five matches to be screened live across the weekend.

While the £144,000 broadcast fee will be welcomed by Coventry, especially following the club's relegation to League One and their bitter move away from the Ricoh Arena in the summer, concerns have been raised over how many Sky Blues fans will make the trip to London.

Jan Mokrzycki, spokesperson for supporters' group Sky Blue Trust, said: "The general reaction seems to be that it is not a very good idea because people are going to have to take time off work and some people might not be able to go."

"If it had been a Saturday we could have sold about seven or eight thousand - on a Friday night we will probably take four or five (thousand)."

Mokrzycki believes many school-age supporters may be unable to attend the attractive fixture, which will be shown on BT Sport.

He said: "It's almost going to be straight from school, straight on to a coach, straight down there."

"It could have been a nice day out - to get down is going to be a rush."

"There will be those who just can't make it because Dad doesn't finish work until five or whatever."

"Basically supporters are the least of the minor considerations - it's money first, money second, money third and, oh yeah, there's the supporters."

The other matches to be screened are Saturday's lunchtime ITV1 clash, which will see Liverpool travel to either Bournemouth or Burton Albion, before Merseyside rivals Everton head to Stevenage at 5:30pm in a game to be shown on BT Sport.

On Sunday, Sheffield United - who knocked out Aston Villa - will host the winners of the replay between Fulham and Norwich on BT Sport, while the live ITV1 tie is the all-Barclays Premier League affair between Chelsea and Stoke at Stamford Bridge, which kicks off at 3:30pm.



GOAL: Leon Clarke's goal set up Coventry with a tie with Arsenal.

Continues: Page 12

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Saints Spotlight

League's appeal for held behind the scenes

THE Sydenhams Wessex League is getting behind a nationwide appeal to persuade people to get involved with their local football club.

As with leagues all over the country, many Wessex clubs are suffering from an chronic lack of helpers – and players – as highlighted by Hayling United's recent withdrawal of their reserve team from the Wyvern Combination ranks (see story on facing page).

Even Blackfield & Langley, the reigning Sydenhams Premier champions, are getting increasingly short of bodies behind the scenes with chairman Owen Lightfoot, pictured below, admitting recently: "We're all looking over our shoulders and saying where are people coming from to look after our clubs."

"We've got a reasonable committee at Blackfield, but we're still short of manpower and the majority of our committee are in their 60s."

And down the road at Hythe & Dibden, chairman Dave Cox has often lamented the fact that players these days seldom stick with clubs once their playing days are drawing to a close, many preferring to move into the veterans' game.

Bearing all that in mind, the SWL committee have forwarded *The Pink* the following appeal in the hope of getting more bodies on board.

"There is a club near you – and not necessarily a Premiership club.

"More likely it is a local club playing in a county or local League on a Saturday that is run by volunteers and with players who, on the whole, play for enjoyment and not reward.

"Such has been the case for years but football at this level all over the country is struggling for lack of people, both on and off the field, for a variety of reasons.

"Quite simply most clubs are run by a committee that has a chairman, secretary and treasurer plus other members, but some are struggling to fill these places and are, in some cases, almost a one-man band.

"YOU could fill the gap. An interest in football is all that is required plus the wish to be part of an enjoyable environment, to be a member of a "team" off the field, and to put a few hours a week to an enjoyable cause.

"For those with some local football knowledge grass roots football is in effect from the Wessex League down through the Hampshire Premier League and the Southampton, Bournemouth and Portsmouth local Football Associations as well as local junior leagues.

"All will be pleased to help, encourage and most of all welcome you to local football in whatever role you see fit. Give it a thought and find out what you could be missing."



GEMS AND THE

From page 10

2008/09

Lee Molyneux, Everton, free

A signing that never took off. Lee Molyneux was a capture Saints were quite proud of, such was his reputation at Everton as a youngster.

However, not long after joining and breaking into the team he was sent off.

Saints were relegated and Molyneux, surplus to requirements after just four appearances for the club, was released from his contract by mutual consent a year early.

MISS

Ryan Smith, Millwall, free
After a good display at Watford, Mark Wotte hailed Ryan Smith as having world class abilities – he just needed to produce it more consistently.

That never happened at Saints who were relegated in his one season at the club.

MISS

2009/10

Jose Fonte, Crystal Palace, £1.2m

The Portuguese centre half has been an excellent signing for Saints.

When he joined then boss Alan Pardew identified Fonte as a player that could go through the leagues with Saints and represent the club in the Premier League.

Fonte dropped down a division to join Saints and hasn't looked back.

Saints got promoted from League One with him in the side, lifted the JPT, won promotion from the Championship and the centre half has established himself as a top flight regular.

HIT

Dan Seaborne, Exeter, £250,000

Was making some real progress before the off field incident that led to a lengthy layoff.

Was released in 2013 after falling well down the pecking order.

MISS

Jon Otsemobor, Norwich, free

Was brought in on a short term contract and did a job for the club in a few months at St Mary's, even if he wasn't a favourite with sections of the fans. Never a long

term signing but did what was asked of him.

HIT

Lee Barnard, Southend, £175,000

Did a real job for Saints in League One, and has a record of scoring 24 times in 72 appearances, but since they have moved up the divisions he has increasingly struggled for a game.

Remains at Saints but hasn't played for the club since March 2012.

HIT

Jason Puncheon, Plymouth, £250,000

Has proved somewhat of an enigma at Saints.

At times has played very well but also been an outcast under Nigel Adkins.

Seemed to be establishing himself again at the club but requested a loan move to Crystal Palace for personal reasons.

HIT

2010/11

Jonathan Forte, Scunthorpe, undisclosed

Has found chances very hard to come by.

Did score two vital goals against MK Dons in League One but has not really had any other significant impact in two and a half years with the club.

MISS

Richard Chaplow, Preston, £50,000

Saints fans knew all about Chaplow after two loan spells with the club and were pleased to see him eventually join the club permanently.

Chaplow was a hit or miss type of player during his time at Saints but provided some valuable work before moving to Millwall last year.

HIT

Guly do Prado, Cessena, undisclosed

Can frustrate and delight in equal measure.

What cannot be questioned is that he has had an impact on Saints, though he is currently ruled out through injury.

HIT

2011/12

Tadanari Lee, Sanif Hiroshima, free
The Japanese striker arrived in



LEE BARNARD



MORE SAINTS NEWS ONLINE: WWW.DAILEYCHO.CO.UK

Saints Spotlight

OCCASIONAL DUD



a blaze of publicity with talk of him taking the Saints brand global.

However, it just hasn't really happened for him at the club.

A mixture of injuries and an inability to claim a regular place for himself in the team has seen his stock dwindle and it seems only a matter of time before he moves on.

MISS

Billy Sharp, Doncaster, £1.8m

A very short term hit for Saints.

Was brought in to deliver the goals to get Saints promoted from the

Championship, and duly did exactly what was asked of him, bagging nine in 15 matches.

However, he just wasn't fancied at Premier League level and has been shipped out on loan deals ever since.

HIT

2012/13

Vegard Forren, Molde, £4m

Will go down as one of the most bizarre signings in the club's history.

The Norwegian international defender joined Saints from Molde for £4m in January 2013 but returned in July 2013 for an undisclosed fee having failed to make a single first team appearance.

MISS

LOAN SIGNINGS

In addition to their permanent signings, Saints have also made several loan additions during previous January transfer windows.

Some have been spectacularly bad, such as Aston Villa's Stephen O'Halloran and Tottenham's Iago Falque.

O'Halloran only made one Championship sub appearance after arriving in January 2008.

And Falque made just one start after being brought in by Nigel Adkins in January 2012.

That was in a 2-0 St Mary's loss to Leicester City, where Falque -

currently on loan from Tottenham to Spanish outfit Rayo Vallecano - was substituted and never seen again.

Adkins had previously brought in Dany N'Guessan in the January 2011 transfer window on loan from Leicester City.

The striker made six League One appearances in his time at St Mary's, without scoring.

He is currently in form for Swindon, having scored eight goals in 15 third division appearances for the Robins.

Undoubtedly the best Saints loan signing in a January window was striker Marek Saganowski.

The Polish international belted 10 goals in 11 starts, plus two off the bench, to help Saints into the Championship play-offs in 2006/07.

Saganowski was subsequently signed permanently, only for the goals to dry up.

After his great start at the club, once he was a permanent signing he could only score nine goals in 55 outings - 31 of which were starts.

Elsewhere ...

There haven't been too many brilliant January transfer window signings.

Here we list a few of the best and the worst, in Premier League history.

HITS

Luis Suarez, Ajax to Liverpool, £22.5m, January 2011

Nemanja Vidic, Spartak Moscow to Manchester United, £7.2m, January 2006

Patrice Evra, Monaco to Manchester United, £7m, January 2006

Ashley Young, Watford to Aston Villa, £8m, January 2007

Gary Chaill, Bolton to Chelsea, £7m, January 2012

Matthew Etherington, West Ham to Stoke, £2m, January 2009

MISSSES

Fernando Torres, Liverpool to Chelsea, £50m, January 2011

Andy Carroll, Newcastle to Liverpool, £35m, January 2011

Afonso Alves, Heerenveen to Middlesbrough, £12.7m, January 2008

Chris Samba, Anzhi Makhachkala to QPR, £12.5m, January 2013

Savio Nsereko, Brescia to West Ham, £9m, January 2009

Hayling are forced to ditch their reserves

HAYLING United are the latest club to withdraw their reserves from the Wyvern Combination League.

The Humbugs are enduring what chairman Ian Gollop calls "an extremely difficult season" following enforced relegation from the Sydenhams Premier Division last summer because their ground was not up to scratch.

Not only did Hayling lose their management team, but 95 per cent of their playing staff went too and they are currently fighting for their lives at the foot of Wessex One.

Writing on the club website, Gollop explained: "After great consideration by myself and the board, we regretfully inform you that we will be withdrawing our team from the Wyvern Combination League with immediate effect.

"Our club has found it extremely difficult this season to meet what we believe to be the requirements to maintain two senior sides.

"We tried our best to rebuild as quickly as possible, but have found that both the level and loyalty of players we have signed has been far from what we, as a small club, expect and have struggled to field enough players across both teams.

"The risk of even more fines for not fulfilling fixtures or not fielding a full-strength team would be crippling to us.

"Our gate revenue is poor, so we feel that we need to focus on our first team and our youth section and hopefully rebuild at a slower rate to hopefully enable us to eventually have a reserve team in the future.

"We need to act now to save our club and this is one of the only ways we can do it.

"We are aware that we will more than likely be fined for withdrawing, but would hope that you will see that we are only doing this to allow our club's existence to continue. That is something we find difficult to comprehend ourselves, but it is a necessary action we have to take."

WYVERN LEAGUE TABLES (Correct up to January 10)

Premier	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dorchester Town	9	7	0	2	35	12	21
Sholing	6	5	0	1	23	10	15
AFC Totton	6	5	0	1	18	6	15
Wimborne Town	8	4	2	2	13	9	14
AFC Portchester	5	4	0	1	20	9	12
Winchester City	10	3	0	7	17	29	9
Bernerton HH	8	3	0	5	10	22	9
Moneyfields	7	3	4	7	16	3	3
New Milton Town	9	0	1	8	10	40	1

Division 1 West	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ringwood Town	8	7	0	1	30	9	21
Team Solent	7	5	2	0	19	11	17
Hythe & Dibden	8	5	1	2	21	17	16
Lymington Town	10	4	3	3	25	16	15
Christchurch	7	3	4	0	18	6	13
Laverstock & Ford	7	1	3	3	12	18	6
Verwood Town	7	2	0	5	12	19	6
Romsey Town	8	1	2	5	10	21	5
Fawley AFC	7	0	2	5	6	21	2
East Cowes Victoria	5	0	1	4	3	18	1

Division 1 East	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Alresford Town	11	10	0	1	47	10	30
Locks Heath	11	7	1	3	29	19	22
Colden Common	10	5	1	4	33	27	16
US Portsmouth	9	5	0	4	24	22	15
Alton Town	7	4	1	2	19	16	13
Horndean	8	4	0	4	20	26	12
Petersfield Town	6	3	1	2	11	9	10
Newport (IoW)	10	3	0	7	13	26	9
Tadley Calveia	6	2	1	3	9	14	7
Folland Sports	11	2	1	8	14	34	7
Hayling United	7	0	0	7	5	21	0

HIT: Jason Puncheon.

ALL THE WEEKEND'S SAINTS NEWS IN MONDAY'S DAILY ECHO

Saints Spotlight



SAINTS' FIRST TEAM FIXTURES AND RESULTS 2013/14

AUGUST																
Sat 17	West Brom(A)	W 1-0	Boruc	Chambers	Fonte	Lovren	Shaw	Wanyama	Schneiderlin	W-Prowse***	Lallana*	Rodriguez**	Lambert 1	Ramirez*	S Davis**	Cork***
Sat 24	Sunderland(H)	D 1-1	Boruc	Chambers	Fonte 1	Lovren	Shaw*	Wanyama	Schneiderlin**	W-Prowse	Lallana***	Rodriguez	Lambert	Clyne*	Oswaldo**	Ramirez***
Tue 27	Barnsley (CCC 2) . . .(A)	W 5-1	K Davis	Clyne	Fonte	Yoshida	Fox	Cork	S Davis 2	Isgrove*	Ramirez 1	Rodriguez** 1	Mayuka*** 1	Rowe*	Reed**	Sinclair***
Sat 31	Norwich(A)	L 0-1	Boruc	Chambers	Fonte	Lovren	Fox	Wanyama	Schneiderlin**	W-Prowse	Oswaldo***	Lallana*	Lambert	Ramirez*	S Davis**	Rodriguez***
SEPTEMBER																
Sun 15	West Ham(H)	D 0-0	Boruc	Clyne	Fonte	Lovren	Shaw**	Wanyama	Schneiderlin	Rodriguez	Oswaldo	Lallana*	Lambert	W-Prowse*	Chambers**	
Sat 21	Liverpool(A)	W 1-0	Boruc	Clyne	Fonte	Lovren 1	Shaw	Wanyama	Schneiderlin	Rodriguez**	Oswaldo	Lallana**	Lambert*	S Davis*	W-Prowse**	Cork***
Tues 24	Bristol City (CCC 3) (H)	W 2-0	K Davis	Chambers	Yoshida	Hooiveld 1	Fox	Cork	S Davis***	W-Prowse	Ramirez 1	Do Prado**	Lee*	Rodriguez*	Reed**	Rowe***
Sat 28	Crystal Palace(H)	W 2-0	Boruc	Clyne	Fonte	Lovren	Shaw	Wanyama	Schneiderlin	S Davis*	Oswaldo 1	Lallana***	Lambert** 1	W-Prowse*	Rodriguez**	Ramirez***
OCTOBER																
Sat 5	Swansea(H)	W 2-0	Boruc	Clyne	Fonte	Lovren	Fox	Wanyama	Schneiderlin	S Davis***	Oswaldo*	Lallana 1	Lambert	W-Prowse*	Rodriguez** 1	Do Prado***
Sat 19	Man United(A)	D 1-1	Boruc	Clyne	Fonte	Lovren	Shaw	Wanyama***	Schneiderlin	S Davis**	Lallana 1	Rodriguez*	Oswaldo	Lambert*	W-Prowse**	Do Prado***
Sat 26	Fulham(H)	W 2-0	Boruc	Clyne	Fonte	Lovren	Shaw	Wanyama	Schneiderlin	W-Prowse**	Rodriguez* 1	Lallana	Lambert 1	Do Prado*	Cork**	
NOVEMBER																
Sat 2	Stoke(A)	D 1-1	Boruc	Clyne	Fonte	Lovren	Shaw	Wanyama	Schneiderlin	W-Prowse	Rodriguez* 1	Lallana	Lambert	Ramirez*		
Wed 6	Sunderland (CCC 4) . .(A)	L 1-2	K Davis	Chambers	Yoshida 1	Hooiveld	Fox	Cork	Reed	S Davis**	Ramirez***	Rodriguez	Lee*	W-Prowse*	Lallana**	Gallagher***
Sat 9	Hull(H)	W 4-1	Boruc	Clyne	Fonte	Lovren	Shaw	Wanyama*	Schneiderlin 1	W-Prowse	Lallana*** 1	Rodriguez	Lambert** 1	S Davis*	Oswaldo**	Cork***
Sat 23	Arsenal(A)	L 0-2	Boruc	Clyne	Fonte	Hooiveld	Shaw*	Wanyama	Schneiderlin	W-Prowse	Lallana**	Rodriguez	Lambert	S Davis*	Oswaldo**	
DECEMBER																
Sun 1	Chelsea(A)	L 1-3	Boruc*	Clyne	Fonte	Lovren	Shaw	Wanyama	Schneiderlin***	W-Prowse**	Lallana	Rodriguez 1	Oswaldo	Gazzaniga*	S Davis**	Lambert***
Wed 4	Aston Villa(H)	L 2-3	Gazzaniga	Clyne***	Yoshida	Lovren	Shaw	Wanyama**	Schneiderlin	W-Prowse*	Lallana	Rodriguez 1	Lambert	Oswaldo* 1	Cork**	Fonte***
Sat 7	Manchester City(H)	D 1-1	Gazzaniga	Chambers	Fonte	Lovren	Shaw	Cork	S Davis***	W-Prowse	Lallana**	Rodriguez	Oswaldo* 1	Lambert*	Ramirez**	Reed***
Sat 14	Newcastle(A)	D 1-1	Gazzaniga	Chambers	Hooiveld	Lovren	Shaw	Cork	S Davis	W-Prowse**	Rodriguez*** 1	Oswaldo*	Lambert	Lallana*	Schneiderlin**	Gallagher***
Sat 21	Tottenham(H)	L 2-3	Gazzaniga	Chambers	Hooiveld	Lovren	Fox***	Cork*	Schneiderlin	S Davis**	Lallana 1	Rodriguez	Lambert 1	W-Prowse*	Ramirez**	Gallagher***
Thu 26	Cardiff(A)	W 3-0	Gazzaniga	Chambers	Fonte	Yoshida	Shaw	Cork	Schneiderlin	S Davis	Lallana *	Rodriguez 2 **	Lambert 1***	W-Prowse*	Ramirez**	Gallagher***
Sun 29	Everton(A)	L 1-2	K Davis	Chambers***	Fonte	Lovren	Shaw	Cork*	S Davis	W-Prowse**	Lallana	Rodriguez	Lambert	Ramirez* 1	Gallagher**	Clyne***
JANUARY																
Wed 1	Chelsea(H)	L 0-3	K Davis	Chambers	Fonte	Lovren	Shaw*	Cork**	Schneiderlin	S Davis***	Lallana	Ramirez	Rodriguez	Clyne*	Lambert**	W-Prowse***
Sat 4	Burnley (FAC 3)(H)	W 4-3	K Davis	Clyne 1	Yoshida	Hooiveld***	Shaw	Cork	Schneiderlin	S Davis	Ramirez**	W-Prowse	Lambert* 1	Rodriguez* 1	Lallana** 1	Fonte***
Sat 11	West Brom(H)															
Sat 18	Sunderland(A)															
Sat 25	Yeovil (FAC 4)(H)															
Tue 28	Arsenal(H)															
FEBRUARY																
Sat 1	Fulham(A)															
Sat 8	Stoke(H)															
Tue 11	Hull(A)															
Sat 22	West Ham(A)															
MARCH																
Sat 1	Liverpool(H)															
Sat 8	Crystal Palace(A)															
Sat 15	Norwich(H)															
Sat 22	Tottenham(A)															
Sat 29	Newcastle(H)															
APRIL																
Sat 5	Manchester City(A)															
Sat 12	Cardiff(H)															
Sat 19	Aston Villa(A)															
Sat 26	Everton(H)															
MAY																
Sat 3	Swansea(A)															
Sun11	Man United(H)															

	LA	LG	CA	CG	CSA	CSG		LA	LG	CA	CG	CSA	CSG		LA	LG	CA	CG	CSA	CSG
KELVIN DAVIS	2	0	4	0	290(1)	0	JACK CORK	6(5)	0	4	0	106(13)	0	RICKIE LAMBERT	16(4)	6	1	1	203(14)	110
PAULO GAZZANIGA	5(1)	0	0	0	16(1)	0	VICTOR WANYAMA	14	0	0	0	14	0	JAY RODRIGUEZ	17(2)	8	2(2)	2	44(15)	19
ARTUR BORUC	13	0	0	0	34	0	MORGAN SCHNEIDERLIN	16(1)	1	1	0	184(29)	9	DANI OSVALDO	9(4)	3	0	0	9(4)	3
NATHANIEL CLYNE	11(3)	0	2	1	47(3)	2	ADAM LALLANA	20(1)	4	0(2)	1	220(26)	55	TADANARI LEE	0	0	2	0	9(5)	2
CALUM CHAMBERS	9(1)	0	2	0	11(2)	0	STEVEN DAVIS	10(5)	1	4	2	37(16)	5	EMMANUEL MAYUKA	0	0	1	1	3(10)	1
DEJAN LOVREN	18	1	0	0	18	1	JAMES WARD-PROWSE	12(8)	0	2(1)	0	24(21)	1	BILLY SHARP	0	0	0	0	12(6)	10
JOSE FONTE	17(1)	1	1(1)	0	159(5)	13	JASON PUNCHEON	0	0	0	0	70(10)	10	SAM GALLAGHER	0(4)	0	0(1)	0	0(5)	0
JOS HOOIVELD	3	0	3	1	72(3)	9	LLOYD ISGROVE	0	0	1	0	1(1)	0	HARRISON REED	0(1)	0	1(2)	0	1(3)	0
MAYA YOSHIDA	2	0	4	1	39(1)	1	OMAR ROWE	0	0	0(2)	0	0(2)	0							
LUKE SHAW	17(1)	0	1	0	42(6)	0	JAKE SINCLAIR	0	0	0(1)	0	0(1)	0							
DANNY FOX	3	0	3	0	58(10)	1	GASTON RAMIREZ	1(8)	1	4	2	25(14)	8							
JACK STEPHENS	0	0	0	0	0(1)	0	GULY DO PRADO	0(3)	0	1	0	78(31)	22							
KEY: LA: league appearances. LG: league goals. CA: cup appearances. CG: cup goals. CSA: career Saints appearances. CSG: career Saints goals.																				

Non-league Action

FA TROPHY 3rd round: Eastleigh 3 Dover 2

EASTLEIGH MAKE TROPHY HISTORY

Wendy Gee

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NON-LEAGUE REPORTER

ELATED Eastleigh are through to the quarter-finals of the FA Trophy for the first time in their history.

They left it late, but finally saw off ten-man Dover 3-2 at the Silverlake Stadium thanks to a late, late winner from Jamie Collins.

The result is the perfect boost for Richard Hill's men ahead of Tuesday night's crucial Conference South fixture when Dover are again the visitors.

The Spitfires were without suspended duo Glen Southam and Stuart Fleetwood, but named a new signing on their bench – former Aldershot striker Reece Connolly from Conference South rivals Farnborough.

In Southam's absence, centre-back Dean Beckwith donned the captain's armband while Sam Wilson – back from loan at Fleet Town – was named among the subs.

Eastleigh looked full of beans after a fortnight's break and took the lead with less than two minutes gone. Yemi Odubade scampered into the area, slightly to the right of goal, and unleashed a shot, which deflected off teammate Jail Reason and flew past wrong-footed goalkeeper Mitch Walker at his near post.

The home side had already done the Dover defence with a deep Reason cross from the left, headed into the six-yard box by Craig McAllister, but there was no one on hand to capitalise.

Dover's first foray forward took 11 minutes, as Tom Murphy tested Eastleigh keeper Ross Flitney with a firm low delivery from the left.

On 18 minutes Michael Green's cross was deflected out for a corner. Reason swung it out to Green on the edge of the area, but the left-back pulled his shot well wide.

Eastleigh though, failed to build on that early pressure and were punished as Dover hit back with a soft equaliser just after the half-hour.

The visitors were awarded a free-kick for a push on Nathan Elder on the right. James Rogers flighted the ball in and Michael Kamara got up highest with a downward header that skimmed under Flitney.

But, having got a footing into the tie, Dover undid their good work with an unnecessary red card.

Elder stupidly leant towards Jamie Collins



GET IN: Eastleigh players celebrate their first goal against Dover.

with his head as the pair confronted each other in the centre circle.

Collins reacted furiously and, as players from both sides gathered round, referee Nicholas Kindsley showed Elder a straight red and Collins a yellow.

From the subsequent free-kick, Dover scrambled the ball behind for a corner following successive headers by centre-backs Beckwith and Chris Todd.

And, with the pink-shirted visitors once again under pressure, Walker turned Reasons's stinging low drive out for another corner before Will Evans thundered a pile-driver well wide.

The Spitfires made a purposeful start to the second-half, with Green's cross landing on the top netting and Reason sending a deflected shot into the side netting before Dover's Tom Wynter screeched a dangerous low

delivery across the face of the Eastleigh goal.

Reason then sent an equally dangerous ball across the Dover six-yard box after beating Terrell Forbes on the left and, at that point, the Spitfires looked the likeliest scorers.

But ten man Dover were dangerous on the break and, on 55 minutes, they snatched the lead via the penalty spot.

As Liam Bellamy burst into the area, pursued by Beckwith and Todd, he was deemed to have been caught by the latter as he went crashing to the ground.

Barry Cogan stepped up to take the penalty, thumping the ball home off the underside of the crossbar to put the visitors 2-1 up.

Flitney then had to be quick off his line to dispossess Bellamy as he again bore down on goal.

By then Eastleigh boss Richard Hill had made another double substitution, withdrawing Obubade and Evans in exchange for Damian Batt and Connolly.

The new signing wasted no time in making an impression, laying the ball sweetly into the path of McAllister, whose deftly curled shot went just side of the post.

Eastleigh kept playing their slick passing game and, though Walker comfortably dealt with half chances from McAllister and Connolly, home persistence paid off with ten minutes to go.

A quality passing move involving Reason, Stevens and Connolly ended with substitute Batt sending a slide rule pass into the path of Stevens on the right of the area and the classy No. 8 duly lashed home the equaliser.

Still there was danger for Eastleigh, with Rogers letting fly from distance but sending the effort wide.

Reason then took aim from 25 yards at the other end, after being played in by Collins, but his shot went well over.

With two minutes remaining Dover defended bravely as the impressive Connolly squeezed a shot in on the turn and the ball hit a Dover defender and fell to McAllister, whose follow-up appeared to go out off a defender, but no corner was given.

Eastleigh go the last laugh, however, when, following a mistake by Walker, Stevens' shot rebounded off a Dover player and out for a corner.

And, once again, it was midfield man Collins who emerged as the hero, bidding his time as Reason's flag kick dropped to him inside a busy six-yard box before hooking home the winner deep into stoppage time.

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Non-league Football

Non-league News

Higgy calls it quits
FORMER Saints defender Danny Higginbotham has announced his retirement from football – just a week after joining Skryll Conference North side Altrincham.

The 35-year-old, pictured below, made the switch to his home town club from Chester in a bid to rekindle his love of the game, but the Gibraltar international has now called time on his playing career.

"It's a massive step to hang up your boots and accept you are finished, but it's one I could not avoid," said Higginbotham, a Saint from 2003-2006.

"Looking back I should probably have quit when I left Chester, but I couldn't pass up the chance of joining Alty.

"I always said I would play for the club I have always supported and I genuinely hoped it would prove the catalyst for firing me up again and getting me back to how I used to be.

"But the harsh reality is, it didn't."

Fareham sign Tayler
FAREHAM Town this week completed the transfer of Nick Tayler from Sydenhams Premier Division rivals Hamworthy United.

Tayler, a towering defender, had made 19 starts for the Hammers this season. He briefly captained United under former manager Simon Browne having joined the County Ground club last summer.

Quarter-final dates
AS expected, Tuesday's trio of Russell Cotes Cup quarter-finals all succumbed to the wet weather.

Sholing's home tie against Farnborough and AFC Totton's trip to AFC Portchester have both been rearranged for Tuesday, February 11 (7.45pm).

Fareham Town are now due to host Romsey Town on Tuesday (January 14), while Christchurch versus Gosport Borough sticks to its original date of Wednesday, January 15.



Testwood Park Limited ready to negotiate with

Wendy Gee

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NON-LEAGUE REPORTER

ED Holmes agrees with that well-known BT slogan "It's good to talk."

But he despairs of the fact that AFC Totton chairman Andy Straker isn't willing to listen.

Holmes, managing director of Testwood Park Limited (TPL), is keen to enter discussions with Straker about a proposed financial investment in AFC Totton aimed at clearing the Stags' mountain of debt and putting the club on a sound business/commercial footing.

It follows two failed attempts by TPL to take control of the club last summer.

First TPL offered to take on AFC Totton's debt and buy the freehold title of the Stags' Testwood Stadium home for £1.

Then they pushed for 99-year commercial lease, but that too came to nothing as Totton opted to remain a members' club and voted in a new interim executive committee headed by Straker.

£170,000

That committee was sliced in half in August when Hayling Island businessman Nick Ferguson and Graham and Angela Speechley-Price wrote to club members informing them they had been "unexpectedly" removed.

Straker, who has since taken on the chairmanship on a permanent basis, said the cull had to happen for the good of the club who have been working hard ever since to chip away at the debt.

But with about £170,000 still outstanding, Totton have been exploring other avenues and are currently in preliminary partnership talks with Totton College which, if successful, could result in the college buying the Testwood Stadium and renting it back to the club.

Holmes himself admits it makes common sense to pursue a partnership with Totton College, stating: "It's always been my aim to have a good academy coming out of Totton."

But he and TPL believe there would be many drawbacks to the club actually selling the ground to the college, pointing out that there would be "a capital gains tax liability to be paid to HMRC upon completion of the sale."

They also question the sense of turning AFC Totton "from the crown jewel of a mortgage-free club with excellent facilities to becoming a tenant."

The sensible alternative, Holmes believes, is for Straker to agree to discuss TPL's proposals, which are as follows:

1 Two club representatives – one trustee and a club elected supporter – to liaise with the board of Testwood Park Limited.

2 All the future debts of the Football Club will be the sole responsibility of AFC Totton



HOW THE DRAMA HAS UNFOLDED: This week's Daily Echo coverage of the battle for the Testwood Stadium.



Football Club Limited.

3 A new AFC Totton Football Club players' budget will be introduced

4 Testwood Park Limited will appoint a club football director who will be responsible for all player signings and agreeing of a club's player personal terms.

5 A full-time employed club commercial manager will be appointed to manage all the commercial aspects of the club together with a full-time employed events manager for all private functions held at the club.

6 Monthly management accounts will be available to the appointed club representatives to ensure the club is completely compliant with FA rules and regulations and, more

importantly, HMRC.

7 All the club's catering operations and bar beverage operations will be by strict CRB checks and appointed staff will be by Testwood Park Limited.

8 All the club's facilities will be managed completely by Testwood Park Limited.

9 AFC Totton Football Club, with the club's appointed trustees, will remain the property owner of the club and its facilities.

10 All of the above is subject to granting Testwood Park Limited a legal agreement for a minimum period of 99 years.

But having sent those proposals to

AFC Totton, TPL are frustrated that the next stage of the process – i.e. talks with the club – appear to be being blocked by Straker, who is deeply suspicious of their motives.

Ban

Straker, pictured left, confirmed this week that he had forwarded a copy of TPL's email to The Football Association, pointing out that it had been sent from the email address of former club sponsor James (Jim) Fallon.

Fallon is currently serving a three-year FA ban from all football and football activities following a seven-month investigation into transfer irregularities while he was vice-chairman of



CALL NON-LEAGUE WRITER WENDY GEE ON 023 8042 4483

Non-league Football

AFC Totton chairman over club takeover

HOLMES RENEWS CALL FOR TALKS OVER STAGS RESCUE PROPOSAL



'Between us we could work this thing out, but I can't do it unless he agrees to talk'

Havant & Waterlooville.

Speaking to the *Southern Daily Echo*, Straker said Fallon and Holmes' interest in the club was bordering on "obsession", adding: "Jim Fallon is banned from football, so even if I thought it was the best proposal in the world, I couldn't recommend it to our members."

"I – and, more importantly, our members – won't see this club go to anyone who hasn't got the best interests of AFC Totton at heart."

But Holmes – who recently stepped down as chairman of neighbouring Totton & Eling – insists he wants the best for the Stags.

He also reiterated that Fallon has nothing to do with TPL, stressing: "Mr Fallon is paddling his own canoe."

Holmes said: "Testwood Park Limited is still interested in taking over. We're prepared to sit down with AFC Totton and negotiate with Mr Straker. When he feels he wants to do that, then give me a call."

Trust

"All I wish is that we could talk, but I want trust from him. The last time I got shafted by what went on with the other people and that's why I pulled out. We'd have been well on the way by now if that stuff with Nick Ferguson etc hadn't happened."

"If he (Straker) wants to sit on the TPL board as a club rep I'd have no problem with that."

"He should eat a bit of humble pie,

come down off his pedestal and talk to me."

"Between us we could work this thing out, but I can't do it unless he agrees to talk."

"All I want is a solution."

Holmes is also managing director of Miller Park Limited, the management company created to hold the long-term lease of Totton & Eling's ground.

The Sydenhams Premier club have confirmed Angus Steel as their new chairman.

Andy Tipp continues as vice-chairman and Charles Wood as club secretary.

Andrew Jenvey has resigned as T&E treasurer but will remain as club accountant.



ED HOLMES

Non-league News

Bubb back in Town

FORMER Eastleigh sharp-shooter Bradley Bubb has returned to Aldershot Town after a spell with Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink's Royal Antwerp in Belgium.

Bubb, 25, originally joined the Shots on a two-year deal from Conference South neighbours Farnborough in June 2011. During his time at the Recreation Ground, the former Beaconsfield SYCOB hitman, below, had loan stints with Basingstoke Town, Eastleigh and Woking before moving to Belgium last summer.

The Grenada international proved a big hit with the Spitfires, scoring ten times in 18 games in the latter half of the 2011/12 season during Ian Baird's time in charge of the Conference South outfit. Bubb struggled for games at Antwerp, making just four appearances before his contract was cancelled at the turn of the year.

He has been training with the Shots ever since and manager Andy Scott revealed: "We'd been working on it for a couple of months. We knew he wanted to come back but we wanted to keep it low key because we knew there would be a number of interested parties."

The Shots now have four strikers – including 26-year-old former Winchester City, Eastleigh and Reading marksman Brett Williams from Hedge End who currently tops the Conference goal charts with 16.

FOOTBALL CONFERENCE TOP SCORERS

(up to and including January 4)

Premier

- 16 – Brett Williams (Aldershot Town)
- 14 – Andre Gray (Luton Town), Lee Gregory (FC Halifax Town), Connor Jennings (Macclesfield Town)
- 12 – Louis Moutl (Nuneaton Town)

South

- 15 – Bradley Goldberg (Bromley)
- 11 – Louie Theophanus (Staines Town)
- 10 – Scott Donnelly (Farnborough)
- 9 – Sahr Kabba (Havant & Waterlooville), Pierre Joseph-Dubois (Bromley), Richard Pacquette (Maidenhead), Jamie Slabber (Sutton Utd).

Page signs for Hythe
GOALKEEPER Jon Page has left Ringwood Town and signed for Sydenhams One rivals Hythe & Dibden.

Page has vast Wessex experience having previously played for Lymington Town, Fawley AFC and Romsey Town in the Premier Division.

EMAIL TEAM SHOTS TO echosport@dailyecho.co.uk

Non-league Football

Non-league News

Trio left are in FA Vase

THE Sydenhams Wessex League are down to three standing in the FA Vase.

Moneyfields and their third round opponents Bitton AFC have been thrown out of the competition following a meeting at the FA on Wednesday.

The tie at Dover Road was abandoned at 1-1 in extra-time following a mass brawl involving players from both sides.

The two clubs were fined £200 in the wake of the bust-up after admitting bringing the game into disrepute.

Two Moneys players – Adrian Brockway and Warren Hunt (pictured below) – were also found guilty by the Hampshire FA of charges brought in the aftermath.

Brockway was fined £40 and handed a four-game suspension for violent conduct that began just before Christmas.

Former Sholing hotshot Hunt was also found guilty of serious foul play and handed a four-game ban which began on December 21.

The double expulsion – pending possible appeal – hands scheduled fourth round opponents Hadleigh United a bye into the last 16.

Stewart Crawford, manager of Eastern Counties League leaders Hadleigh admitted: "I did think that might be the case, both clubs being removed."

"When I heard the game was abandoned because of fighting, I know the FA are really hard on that sort of thing."

"At the end of the day, we would have happily gone to play any of them and I think, in the form we're in, we would have won as well."

Moneyfields' removal leaves just Alresford Town, Blackfield & Langley and Sholing to fly the Wessex flag in the last 32 tomorrow week (January 18).

Sholing – 8/1 third favourites to lift the trophy – entertain Hullbridge Sports of the Essex Senior League, while Alresford and Blackfield have landed away ties against Toolstation Western Premier opposition, Hallen and Larkhall Athletic.

FA Vase odds from Bet Victor (as of January 9): 11/4 Spennymoor Town, 15/8 West Auckland Town, 8/1 Sholing, 14/1 Ashington, Dunston UTS, AFC Rushden & Diamonds, 20/1 Newcastle Benfield, 25/1 Amptill Town, 33/1 Ashford Utd, Hanworth Villa, Larkhall Athletic, Morpeth Town, Wisbech Town, 40/1 Blackfield & Langley, East Preston, Hadleigh Utd, Hanwell Town, 50/1 Alresford Town, Norwich Utd, Causeway Utd, 66/1 Brantham Athletic, Brightlingsea Regent, Hallen, Whickham, Westfields, Colleshill Town, 80/1 Bodmin Town, Congleton Town, Eastbourne Utd, Hullbridge Sports, 125/1 St Andrews.

MONEYS CASH IN ON GAME GOING AHEAD

Wendy Gee

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NON-LEAGUE REPORTER

MONEYFIELDS brought three weeks of weather-enforced inaction to a close with a 1-0 Sydenhams Premier Division win at Bemerton Heath Harlequins on Tuesday.

The new year's storms wiped out every other game that night, including Bournemouth Poppies' visit to Whitchurch United which was abandoned seven minutes before half-time as the heavens opened yet again.

Steve Hutchings' first-half goal proved the difference between the sides at Bemerton – the master marksman lobbing Max Frampton from 18 yards after the Harlequins' keeper had come charging off his line.

"We didn't expect the game to be on but, to be fair, the pitch was immaculate," said Moneys boss Miles Rutherford. "We looked a little weary in the final 15 minutes, but we held out."

A strong second half saw Bemerton carve out the best set of chances with Joe Sanger and Danny Young going close.

But they failed to make the pressure count and an injury to former Salisbury City skipper Aaron Cook increased manager Ian Chalk's frustration.

"We played some excellent football, but lacked composure in front of goal," said Chalk.

"It was a game of two halves as they were better in the first half, while we dominated the second."

"We did okay overall as we hadn't

Ex-City ace goes back to Crawley

FORMER Salisbury City hotshot Matt Tubbs has been sent out on loan by AFC Bournemouth.

The 29-year-old has returned to his former club Crawley Town, initially for a month, but with a view to staying with John Gregory's League One charges until May.

Verwood-raised Tubbs joined Cherries two years ago for a then club record fee of around £800,000 and featured mostly from the bench as Eddie Howe's men secured promotion to the Championship.

He was recalled early from a loan spell at Rotherham where he had netted just once in 21 appearances after joining the Millers at the start of the season.

"Matt had a frustrating spell at Rotherham where he didn't get the football he had wanted," said Howe.

"He wasn't a regular starter for us last season and had hoped to get regular football."

"Hopefully he will get that during his time with Crawley, get back to scoring goals and get that buzz of scoring

because he has scored wherever he has been in his career."

"I think it is a good move for him at a club where, previously, he did well."

"Hopefully that will give him the impetus he needs to hit the ground running."

Tubbs was a big hit during his first stint at Crawley, his 40 goals helping them win promotion to the Football League in 2011.

Welcoming the move back to Sussex, Tubbs said: "I had other options, but Crawley is close to my heart and I wanted to come back."

"I am a confident lad, I am confident in my ability and, with the players they have got, there is no reason why I shouldn't score goals."



played for a while and it was a good run-out for the players."

Given that it was the only local game to survive the weather, Chalk

had been hoping for a decent turnout. As it was, only 20 supporters showed up.

"We're suffering financially at the

moment, not getting people through the gate," Chalk admitted.

"It's a real shame as we need more supporters to come and watch."

Another long road trip for Poppies

FRUSTRATED manager Ken Vaughan questioned the decision to start Bournemouth Poppies' match at Whitchurch United on Tuesday after their Sydenhams Premier clash was abandoned on 37 minutes.

A first-half down-pour on an already sodden pitch saw the action prematurely ended by match refer-

ee Nigel Gibbens with the hosts 1-0 up through Isaac Sedu's 26th-minute goal.

It was the second time this season Poppies had had a match abandoned, after their Hampshire Senior Cup tie at Stockbridge was curtailed by floodlight failure in October.

And, after enduring a wasted 100-mile

round-trip for the midweek clash, Vaughan called for more "common sense" when assessing the condition of pitches.

The Poppies boss, pictured left, said: "I walked across the pitch before the game and it was very heavy. It could not take any more water. We had looked at the forecast

and it was meant to rain from about 8pm."

"It was pretty obvious to me that it would be a mud bath either way, the pitch was saturated and you would have thought that would have been taken into account before making us travel."

"Whitchurch were apologetic about it and I know every

effort has to be made to get games on, but if getting the game played rests on whether we have a shower of rain, surely it has to be called off in the first place."

"It was one of our longest trips of the season and has cost us a lot of money in petrol only for us to have to go up there again."



Non-league Football

Football is back at the Portway

FOOTBALL has finally come home to Andover's Portway Stadium.

In May 2011, when Andover FC had completed their last Southern League and Hampshire 2004 fixtures for that season, few had any inkling that it would be the best part of three years before football was again staged at the 24-year-old ground.

At that time, despite its relative youth, the

Portway was showing more than a little neglect with smashed fences, wobbly floodlight pylons and a pitch which had suffered all manner of harm in the previous years, but it was expected that the Lions would continue, as usual, as they had done since the 1880s.

As has been well documented, the now defunct club went the same way as the likes of Rushden & Diamonds,

Witney Town, Walthamstow Avenue, Leytonstone, Edgware and many others, who were swallowed up by financial crisis, ground problems or just plain apathy.

In the subsequent years the stadium was left to slowly be overtaken by flora and fauna and at times resembled a set from a western movie.

But two weeks ago the public were invited to

see for themselves just what a transformation had taken place since a combination of parties got together to forge a plan to save the stadium and set up what has now become the new town club.

Formed by the Portway's new leaseholders, Andover and Sparsholt Colleges, Andover Town FC was born in the summer of 2013 and now sits proudly aloft Sydenhams

One. The ground will be used by the sister colleges as an academy base and will shortly include classrooms on the site of the old clubhouse to be used on a full-time basis for age-groups 14-19.

Outlining the future of the site, Andover College principal Tim Jackson said: "Many people have been instrumental in putting together what we see here today and it is sure to

benefit the town and the community in all sorts of ways.

The whole project came about initially through the vision of assistant principal of Andover/Sparsholt College Stuart Barlow and Lawrence Blair, sports curriculum manager, who spotted the potential after seeing the finished article at Southampton Solent University's side Team Solent.

Non-league News

Grace back at Town

SEASONED Wessex League campaigner Jon Grace is back at New Milton Town.

Described as "a real old school defender" by one of his old clubs Christchurch, Grace, pictured – who can play at right-back or in central defence – has also featured for Brockenhurst in the past.

Grace's experience should prove a real asset to New Milton as they look to push back into top-six contention in Sydenhams One.



Sampson returns

HIGHLY-RATED centre-back Scott Sampson has returned to his Isle of Wight roots.

The former AFC Bournemouth youth defender/reserve team skipper, pictured, has parted company with reigning Sydenhams Premier champions Blackfield & Langley and, as expected, re-signed for his old club Newport IoW.

Sampson – 25-year-old son of former Newport striker and Cowes Sports boss Andy – has played for AFC Totton and Blackfield since his last spell at St George's Park in 2012.

He made 38 Wessex starts for Blackfield last season as they romped to the Sydenhams Premier title under the guidance of Ashley Vickers.

In total he made 56 appearances for the Watersiders, scoring four goals.



Delano wants goals

EX-BASINGSTOKE Town striker Delano Sam-Yorke is hoping to regain his 'goal-den' touch with Skril Conference Premier outfit Lincoln City.

The former Camrose favourite, pictured, signed for Imps on loan from lofty divisional rivals Cambridge United when the transfer window opened last week.

Sam-Yorke, 24, has netted just twice in 16 appearances for Cambridge, the majority as a substitute, since joining from Basingstoke last summer.

He will stay with Lincoln until April 5.



Purchases: Will has a big future

AFC Bournemouth development coach Stephen Purches believes Poole Town's Will Spetch is ready to make the grade in professional football – despite not being offered a Dean Court deal.

Former Cherries trialist Spetch is set to continue his protracted pursuit of a full-time deal by spending a week showcasing his talents at League One outfit Port Vale later this month.

The 22-year-old defender, who is under contract with the Dolphins, has trained with Cherries, Huddersfield Town, Portsmouth and AFC Wimbledon with the Southern Premier club's blessing.

He impressed while playing the full 90 minutes as an experimental Cherries side beat QPR 1-0 in a December friendly with a host of scouts looking on. Spetch was told last month that Cherries

would not be offering him a deal following his second trial in as many years.

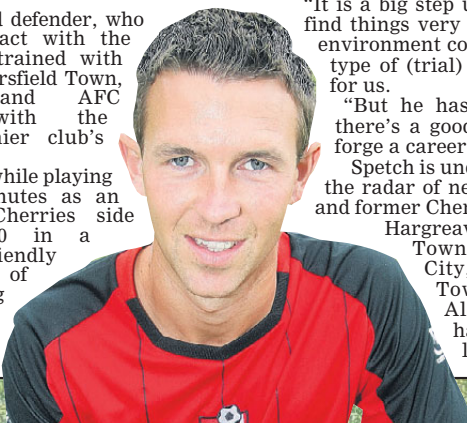
But Purches, pictured below, still sees the centre-half as a prospective professional and says Spetch is "more than welcome" to continue training with Bournemouth.

"He showed why there has been a lot of hype surrounding him and, while we were unable to offer him anything, I am sure something will happen for him," he said.

"It is a big step up and he would find things very different in that environment compared with the type of (trial) game he played for us.

"But he has the ability, so there's a good chance he can forge a career in the game."

Spetch is understood to be on the radar of new Torquay boss and former Cherries coach Chris Hargreaves, while Yeovil Town, Birmingham City, Mansfield Town and Aldershot Town have all been linked this week.



IN DEMAND: Poole Town ace Will Spetch.

Non-league Football

Non-league News

Sholing face holders

HOLDERS Alesford Town will go head to head with Premier Division title favourites Sholing in the semi-finals of the Sydenhams Wessex League Cup.

The mouthwatering showdown will take place at Winchester City's Denplan City Ground on Tuesday, January 28.

The other semi-final pits sole Sydenhams One survivors Petersfield Town against Whitchurch United and takes place next Tuesday (January 14) at Alesford's Arlebury Park.

Critchell on the mend

EX-SAINT Kyle Critchell was returning to work this week after recovering from a severe bout of sepsis, which almost claimed his life last year.

The 26-year-old Weymouth defender/midfielder – a Saint from 2003-2007 – still harbours hopes of one day playing again, but admits he has a long way to go.

"I am very much in limbo at the minute," he said.

"I have been to see the specialist in Oxford and all I can do is keep driving up there for scans to see how my hip is and how the infection is going.

"Certain questions cannot be answered at the moment, but I am being seen by some of the best medical people in the country, if not the world, so I am in the best hands and very thankful for that.

"The whole experience has been very traumatic and, although I still hope to play again one day, this is about my life outside of football too and I need to make sure everything is right."

Cuss says his prayers

WIMBORNE Town boss Steve Cuss is praying for an end to the wet weather.

If the Magpies play today, it will be their first action since their 6-2 victory at Evesham on December 28.

Their New Year's Day fixture at Tiverton was called off due to a waterlogged pitch, as was last Saturday's scheduled game at Yate in the Calor Southern One South & West.

"It's very frustrating," said Cuss.

"Not only are we missing games, but we also have problems trying to find suitable places to train.

"On the plus side, we should have a fully fit squad for our next game (at Stratford Town today). But on the downside, James Stokoe's suspension is carried over and he will not be able to play."

Referee meeting

EASTLEIGH Referees' Society will be holding their monthly meeting on Monday (January 13, 7.30pm) at Chandler's Ford Central Club, Winchester Road, SO53 2FZ.

The guest speaker will be Mr Steve Green from Reading. All are welcome.

Wendy Gee

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NON-LEAGUE REPORTER

AS fierce winds and torrential rain continued to batter the south coast this week, the non-League programme was particularly hard hit.

And with some weather experts predicting sodden weather for years to come, Sholing chairman/manager Dave Diaper reckons the widespread introduction of artificial pitches is the common sense way forward for grass roots football.

Diaper's Boatmen are hot tips to lift the Sydenhams Premier crown this season and are quoted as 8/1 third favourites to triumph in the FA Vase by BetVictor.

They are also through to the Sydenhams League Cup semi-finals and the quarter-finals of the Russell Cotes Cup and, like all sides fighting for silverware on several fronts, they will face a worrying backlog of fixtures if the current stormy weather persists.

"If we finished a season playing just Saturdays it would be unique."

"If all this rain is a sign of things to come, the common sense thing would be to have more money freed up by the FA to put in 4G (fourth generation) pitches or to at least provide the funding for it," said Diaper.

"If it's not a case of pitches being too wet these days, they're frost-bound or covered in snow and they take a lot of money to maintain.

"The climate has massively changed in this country and, in these days when huge amounts of money are being banded around in the Premier League, I think it's time some of it was implemented to help the leagues lower down."

Not only is Diaper thinking about the practicalities of getting more

IT'S ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Diaper: Artificial pitches are a no-brainer for non-league clubs

WASHED OUT: Amesbury Town's flooded pitch last weekend and, below, Sholing boss Dave Diaper.

games played on an artificial surface, he believes it would also assist in boosting the skill factor among young players.

"The weather-hit pitches are not only forcing games to be postponed, they're stopping kids from training and progressing," he said.

"We're lagging behind on that side of things in this country and I believe the skill factor would improve tremendously if 3G and 4G pitches were introduced."

There are currently four FA-registered 3G pitches listed in Hampshire – at Charlton Sports & Leisure Centre, Andover (full size), Robert May's School in Odiham (medium size), Petersfield School (full size) and at Southampton

Solent University's Test Park ground Southampton (full size).

Ryman Premier promotion chasers Maidstone United are among the pioneering non-League clubs to have already installed a 3G (third generation) pitch but, as things stand, they would not be able to climb any higher up the pyramid with an artificial surface.

They are currently lobbying the Football Association to allow synthetic grass pitches to be used at Conference South level and beyond.

Rain permitting, Sholing will have reached the halfway point of their Wessex Premier fixtures at home to Bemerton Heath Harlequins today, meaning they have another 21 games – plus cups – to squeeze in

between now and the end of April.

And if the new year weather continues playing havoc, yet another fixture backlog is beckoning.

"At this rate we'll end up playing three and four games a week, which makes a mockery of it, but it's been like that for the last six years," shrugged Diaper.

"If we managed to finish a season playing just Saturdays, it would be unique. But we don't, we end up playing Saturday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday.

"It's not so bad at this (Wessex) level because there's only three-quarters of an hour between most grounds – it's the Southern League that it takes it out of you. It's not ideal, but we're used to it."

Harris frustrated after wasted trip to Halifax

SALISBURY City's patience was stretched to the limit this week as a third successive postponement left them waiting to kick-start 2014.

With rain preventing play at Woking and Forest Green Rovers respectively, City were desperate for Tuesday's Skril Conference Premier showdown at FC Halifax Town to get the go-ahead after travelling to Yorkshire on Monday at a cost of around £2,500.

But though the Shay Stadium pitch passed a

morning inspection, frustration followed as more heavy downpours forced the game to be called off around three hours before kick-off.

City boss Mikey Harris lamented: "The chairman (William Harrison-Allan) was good enough to let us go up the day before and prepare for the game properly. He funded it out of his own pocket and that's been for nothing, so I feel for him.

"I attended the pitch inspection in the morning and it was playable, but unfortunately the rain in the afternoon meant the game was called off."

An unwanted rest has broken up City's rhythm as an effective finish to 2013 saw them beat Edgar David's Barnet and Woking

away and draw with Southport.

Had they won at Halifax, they would have leapfrogged the Yorkshire outfit into the play-off zone.

"We really wanted to continue the momentum we've gathered over the last few games and we haven't had an opportunity to do that," Harris, pictured, added.

"But we've got to do what we've got to do.

"I'm a firm believer in not wasting any emotions or energy on things that you can't affect and we'll quick-

ly move on."

A lengthy re-visit to Halifax is likely to be arranged for either February or March.

"The chairman's backed the squad and it was a significant amount of money for a club like us to come here," Harris added.

"It's a bitter pill for him to swallow.

"It's disappointing."

Striker Tyler Harvey has returned to parent club Plymouth Argyle after his month's loan at Salisbury expired.



Non-league Football



JASON BRISTOW

Make or break time for Town

WITH 11 games to play between now and the end of February, the next few weeks could make or break Basingstoke Town's season.

The Camrose club headed into this afternoon's scheduled home game against Bath City sitting 12th in the Skril Conference South, but they have games in hand over most of the teams above them and began today just five points shy of the play-off places.

"I would rather have the points than games in hand, but we are looking at it and thinking that we could be in a great position by the end of next month," said manager Jason Bristow.

"We cannot assume that will happen, we have to

make it happen, but if we play like we know we can and do what we need to do in the final third then we could pick up a lot of points in the coming weeks.

"We have got two home games this week (with Whitehawk to come on Tuesday) and we are looking to take maximum points," Bristow added. "If we can do that, it will really put the pressure on the sides above us."

Like all managers, Bristow has been frustrated by the weather-delayed start to the new year.

"With two games being postponed and one abandoned at half-time (at Gosport Borough), we've gone a while without a game," he said.

"What makes it more frustrating is that we feel we are in good shape. With the signing of Louie Soares and the loan signings of Ben Wright and Matt Partridge, we have competition for places all over the pitch.

"Everyone has been excellent in training and we're itching to get back to playing."

Gosport boss Alex Pike shares Bristow's frustration over the spate of festive and new year postponements.

Pike, whose side face a desperate fight for Conference South survival, had been praying that Tuesday night's home game against Hayes & Yeading would beat the weather.

But heavy morning rain

put paid to that fixture and, with today's FA Trophy tie at Hungerford followed by a Russell Cotes Cup assignment at Christchurch on Wednesday, they do not return to league action until next Saturday when they face a daunting trip to promotion-pushing Eastleigh.

"We are desperate to start playing again," Pike admitted. "We have managed to get in a lot of training, but there is no compensation for playing competitive games."

Pike added: "We now have a fixture backlog and that won't help. For some of our players in the twilight of their careers, it will be a big test.

"It will be up to me to try and manage the situation."

Ex-Totton loanee joins Dorchester

FORMER AFC Totton loanee Jake McCarthy has been sent back out to gain more non-League experience by Sky Bet Championship club AFC Bournemouth.

The young defender impressed for Steve Riley's Totton in the Calor Southern Premier Division before signing his first professional contract for Cherries last month.

He has now joined Skril Conference South strugglers Dorchester Town on loan along with ex-Reading forward/winger Charlie Losasso.

Losasso was most recently on loan with Dorchester's divisional rivals Whitehawk and, during his Reading days, had a spell with Salisbury City.

Dorchester boss Phil Simkin, right, said: "Jake is a centre-back who can also play in midfield, while Charlie is a wide player who can also play up front."

"Bournemouth rate both of them highly."

"Charlie will be with us for three months, while Jake has come here on a youth loan, which is open-ended."

McCarthy is in the second year of his youth team scholarship at Bournemouth but was promoted to the development squad in the summer. He has penned a deal with the Cherries until June 2015.

"Jake had a great pre-season and impressed myself and the gaffer, so this is a reward for the hard work he has put in," said Bournemouth development coach Stephen Purches.

"He did well on loan with Totton, proving he could cope with men's football."



Matthews relishing challenge of being the boss

FORMER Eastleigh goalkeeper Jason Matthews is "excited" by the challenge of landing the Weymouth manager's job on a permanent basis.

Having impressed during a spell as caretaker boss following the departure of Brendon King, Matthews was handed the reins last Saturday.

The Paulton-born player-manager, pictured above, kept goal for Eastleigh from 2008-2011 and was part of the side that made the Conference South play-offs in 2008/09.

He said: "The reaction the rest of the players gave me when I first took caretaker charge gave me a real buzz and I am really excited about the challenge of taking it forward now on a permanent basis."

"An opportunity like this at such a big club doesn't come along very

Wendy Gee

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NON-LEAGUE REPORTER



often and I guarantee the fans that I will be doing everything I can to make a success of it.

"One thing is for sure, I won't be settling for second best."

"I know there will be a lot of difficult decisions to make, but I am excited about the challenge."

"I have been told all the directors at the club voted for me to take the job permanently, which is nice to know, and I want to repay their faith in me."

"Even if I only take it through to the end of the season, it's a privilege to be given the opportunity."

Matthews has arguably been Weymouth's most consistent player this season in the Calor Southern Premier and, if recent perfor-

mances are anything to go by, combining goalkeeping with management should not be a concern.

Terras chairman Nigel Biddlecombe confirmed: "The board has been very happy with the job Jason has done over the last few weeks."

"Brendon King is a very good friend of mine, but things unfortunately went stale and a decision was taken."

"Jason has stepped in and done well and we are all looking forward to the next chapter."

Matthews' first task will be to pull Dorset's sleeping giants out of mid-table obscurity, but Biddlecombe stressed: "No targets have been set between now and the end of the season."

"Jason will no doubt have his own thoughts on what can be achieved, but obviously the main thing we all want is to win matches."

Non-league News



Wort leading the way

LEE Wort leads the chase for the Sydenhams Premier Division golden boot award at the start of the new year.

The Sholing sharpshooter has fired in 27 Wessex goals this term – three ahead of Alresford Town's Warren Bentley, who finished joint runner-up with 33 last term.

Wort's frontline partner Ashley Jarvis, who joined Sholing from Folland Sports during the summer, is the best of the rest with 19.

There's a tight battle in prospect for the Division One big guns.

Three players – Tadley's Brett Denham, Petersfield's Rob Tambling and Andover Town's former Winchester City striker Michael Dixon – are currently leading the way with 16.

They are just ahead of 15-goal Kabba Jack from New Milton Town.

SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE HOT SHOTS

(Up to and including January 4)

Premier Division

27 – Lee Wort (Sholing)
24 – Warren Bentley (Alresford Town)
19 – Ashley Jarvis (Sholing)
18 – Iain Seabrook (Newport IoW), Luke Walker (Whitchurch Utd)
17 – Ryan Long (Folland Sports)
15 – Scott Joyce (Brockenhurst), Nathan Lynch (AFC Portchester/Blackfield & Langley)

Division One

16 – Brett Denham (Tadley Calvea), Michael Dixon (Andover Town), Rob Tambling (Petersfield Town)
15 – Kabba Jack (New Milton Town)
13 – Jordan Browne (Cowes Sports), Joseph Richardson (Petersfield Town)
12 – Sean Bartlett (Team Solent)

Kemp planning ahead

FORMER Winchester City boss Graham Kemp is already planning ahead for next season with his new charges Hamworthy United.

The Hammers are already well clear of the Sydenhams Premier drop zone following Kemp's November appointment and, with just a few more points needed to ensure safety, the boss is now focusing on the future as well as the present.

While immediate survival remains the priority, Kemp is assessing his current squad and considering how best to build a team capable of challenging for honours in 2014/15.

"It is about getting enough points on the board to ensure we don't get dragged into a relegation battle, but it is also about next season," he said.

"It has been hard work since I have been here and it has been all about climbing the table to finish in a relatively respectable position."

"We are looking at the players for their attitude, ability and work-rate. The lads have responded well to what we have asked and the new signings have helped."

"We have made it clear that we don't want to manage a club which finishes tenth to 15th in the table."

"We want to progress and challenge for trophies."

"Next season we would expect to be a couple of steps closer."

MORE NON-LEAGUE NEWS IN MONDAY'S DAILY ECHO

Saints Spotlight

CHERRIES FIXTURES

AUGUST

Sat 3	Charlton (H)	.....W 2-1
Grabban 2		
Tues 6	P'mouth LC1 (H)	...W 1-0
O'Kane		
Sat 10	Watford (A)	.....L 1-6
Grabban		
Sat 17	Wigan (H)	.....W 1-0
Grabban		
Sat 24	Huddersfield (A)	...L 1-5
Pugh		
Wed 28	Watford (LC2) (A)	...L 0-2
Sat 31	Doncaster (A)	.....W 1-0
Pitman		

SEPTEMBER

Sat 14	Blackpool (H)	.....L 1-2
Grabban		
Tue 17	Barnsley (H)	.....W 1-0
Pugh		
Sat 21	Middlesbrough (A)	...D 3-3
Pitman (2), OG		
Sat 28	Blackburn (H)	.....L 1-3
Fraser		

OCTOBER

Tues 1	Leeds (A)	.....L 1-2
Grabban		
Sat 5	Millwall (H)	.....W 5-2
Fraser, Cook, Arter, Grabban, Pitman		
Sat 19	Nottm Forest (A)	...D 1-1
Pugh		
Sat 26	Leicester (A)	.....L 1-2
Pugh		

NOVEMBER

Sat 2	Bolton (H)	.....L 0-2
Sat 9	Burnley (A)	.....D 1-1
Rantie		
Sat 23	Derby (H)	.....L 0-1
Sat 30	Brighton (A)	.....D 1-1
Ritchie		

DECEMBER

Tues 3	QPR (A)	.....L 0-3
Sat 7	Reading (A)	.....W 2-1
Grabban, Ritchie		
Sat 14	Birmingham(H)	...L 0-2
Sat 21	Sheff Wed (A)	...W 2-1
Ritchie, Grabban		
Thur 26	Yeovil (H)	.....W 3-0
Ritchie (2), O'Kane		
Sun 29	Ipswich (H)	.....D 1-1
Pitman		

JANUARY

Wed 1	Brighton (A)	.....D 1-1
Grabban		
Sat 11	Wigan	.....(A)
Sat 18	Watford	.....(H)
Sat 25	Charlton	.....(A)
Tues 28	Huddersfield	.....(H)

FEBRUARY

Sat 1	Leicester	.....(H)
Sat 8	Bolton	.....(A)
Sat 15	Burnley	.....(H)
Sat 22	Derby	.....(A)

MARCH

Sat 1	Doncaster	.....(H)
Sat 8	Blackpool	.....(A)
Wed 12	Blackburn	.....(A)
Sat 15	Middlesbrough	.....(H)
Sat 22	Barnsley	.....(A)
Tues 25	Leeds	.....(H)
Sat 29	Birmingham	.....(A)

APRIL

Sat 5	QPR (H)	
Tues 8	Reading	.....(H)
Sat 12	Yeovil	.....(A)
Fri 18	Sheff Wed(H)
Mon 21	Ipswich(A)
Sat 26	Notts Forest(H)

MAY

Sat 3	Millwall(A)
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SECOND REPLAY A

October 26 1960
League Cup 1st rd 2nd replay
Saints 5 Newport County 3

Saints finally got the better of lower division Newport at the third time of asking in their first ever round of the League Cup.

Having been held 2-2 at Somerton Park and then The Dell, Saints won the toss of a coin to have home advantage in the second replay.

Ted Bates' men found themselves 3-1 down to the Welsh club before scoring three times in the last 16 minutes to progress.

Derek Reeves fired Saints level after the third tier visitors had gone ahead in the second minute against a Saints side in their first season back in the old Second Division.

But Newport hit back to take a 3-1 lead.

Tommy Traynor reduced the arrears just after the hour mark before Terry Paine levelled on 74 minutes.

There were only three minutes left when Paine fired Saints ahead, and two minutes later George O'Brien completed the victory.

Defeat was harsh on the Welshmen, who had taken the lead in all three matches and who twice led by two goals at The Dell - having been 2-0 up in the first replay before Reeves and O'Brien had forced a third game

November 12, 1960
League Cup 3rd rd
Liverpool 1 Saints 2

Terry Paine scored twice as Saints inflicted the first ever League Cup defeat on Liverpool in the competition's first season.

The hosts were so unimpressed by the new tournament they didn't enter it again until the 1967/68 campaign!

Paine put Saints into a half-time lead at Anfield and, after his future World Cup winning colleague Roger Hunt had levelled, struck a 62nd-minute winner.

December 6, 1960
League Cup 4th rd
Saints 5 Leeds United 4

Possibly THE most incredible cup tie played by Saints.

Derek Reeves scored all five goals for the hosts, including a winner 25 seconds from the end of normal time after Saints had let slip a 4-0 lead.

Ted Bates' men had to play all but the first 20 minutes with 10 men, due to an injury suffered by goalkeeper Ron Reynolds.

Cliff Huxford, who had never played in goal before, replaced Reynolds in the days before substitutes were introduced.

To add to Saints' problems, striker George O'Brien

HAT-TRICK:
Ron Davies
scored three
v Plymouth.

SAINTS have had some superb cup wins down the years, and the Sports Pink is aiming to celebrate the best over the next two issues. Starting this week, we feature the first bunch of great successes, starting with some amazing games in Saints' first ever League Cup campaign in 1960/61. Our superb nostalgia special continues in next week's Sports Pink.



MEMORABLE: Derek Reeves, above right, scores one of his five goals against Leeds.

MEMORABLE: Deputy keeper Cliff Huxford, below, gathers the ball after an injury to Ron Reynolds, inset below, who went off injured in the first half at a gloomy Dell.



spent most of the evening hobbling around the pitch.

To add to the remarkable drama, The Dell floodlights failed not once but TWICE, casting the ground into virtual darkness for a combined period of 62 minutes.

The tie eventually finished at around 10.20pm.

The game, played on a Monday night, had only been going for 10 minutes when the lights first went out with the score still 0-0.

It was 28 minutes before play

resumed, with the players having remained on the pitch for half that time kicking a ball around to stay warm.

Eleven minutes after the tie had restarted, the floodlights failed again - this time the teams spending 34 minutes off the pitch.

Reeves had opened the scoring before the second lights failure.

Reynolds was stretched off in virtual darkness after injuring himself diving at the feet of Leeds' John McCole, the floodlights fail-

TRANSFER WINDOW HITS & MISSES - PAGES 10-13

Saints Spotlight

REAL GOAL FEST



JUBILATION: Saints, above, celebrate winning at Chelsea to reach the 1992 ZDS Cup final.



GOING FOR GOAL: Paul Rideout fires in a shot as Saints beat Swindon in the League Cup, 1990

ing for the second time a few seconds later.

X-rays later showed he had broken a small bone in his back and had a badly bruised wrist. He was not kept overnight in hospital, though.

On restarting the game for a second time, Reeves fired Saints – playing with ten men, remember – into a 4-0 lead against a Leeds team that were second tier rivals at the time.

Reeves had completed his hat-

trick before half-time, adding a fourth three minutes into the second period.

Leeds started their comeback in the 53rd minute with a goal from Peyton and, after McCole had made it 3-2, Jack Charlton grabbed a third on 69 minutes.

As Leeds piled forward, Charlton was fouled in the box and Cameron levelled the scores past Huxford with a penalty.

That set the scene for Reeves to bag five goals in a game for the first

and only time in his career, sending Saints into the last eight of what was the first ever League Cup competition.

A night of drama that has rarely ever been equalled, let alone beaten.

'Saints Amazing Cup-tie' screamed a Southern Evening Echo front page headline the following day, though the front page lead story was about the discovery of a car and body parts belonging to a north London couple who had

disappeared from their Tottenham home four years earlier.

Other front page stories included the search for four Dartmoor Prison inmates who had escaped onto snow-covered moors, and 64-year-old Harry Oakes – who played Dan Archer in the BBC serial *The Archers* – being told to rest by his doctors due to his hectic work-load.

6 January 1990 League Cup 4th round replay Saints 4 Swindon 2 (AET)

Saints grabbed a Dell replay after claiming a 0-0 draw at a Swindon side who would end the season winning promotion to the top flight – only to have it taken away from them due for financial reasons.

In the Dell replay, Saints' first £1 million signing Alan McLoughlin, then of Swindon, put the Wiltshire side ahead.

Steve White then doubled the Robins' advantage and Saints looked on their way out.

But Neil Ruddock and Alan Shearer, on as subs for Jason Dodd and Kevin Moore, transformed the tie.

After Barry Horne fired Saints back into contention with a venomous volley from a Matt Le Tissier corner, ex-Swindon striker Paul Rideout levelled six minutes from time.

Le Tissier curled in a 20-yard free-kick to put Saints ahead in extra-time and Rod Wallace skipped past two defenders to clinch a quarter final tie at home to another second tier club, Oldham.

Continued on page 24

POMPEY FIXTURES

AUGUST

Sat 3	Oxford (H)	.....L 1-4
Agyemang		
Tues 6	B'mouth LC1 (A)	..L 0-1
Sat 10	Accrington (A)	....D 2-2
Connolly 2		
Sat 17	Morecambe (H)	..W 3-0
Wallace, Connolly, Agyemang		
Sat 24	Mansfield (A)	....D 2-2
Barcham, Connolly		
Sat 31	Chesterfield (H)	...L 0-2

SEPTEMBER

Tues 3	Torquay FLT1 (a)	..D 0-0
Won on penalties		
Sat 7	Cheltenham (A)	..D 2-2
Agyemang, Ertl		
Sat 14	Burton (A)	.....W 2-1
Holmes, Ferry		
Sat 21	Fleetwood (H)	...L 0-1
Sat 28	York (A)	.....L 2-4
Wallace, Marquis		

OCTOBER

Sat 5	Rochdale (H)	...W 3-0
Ngala 2, Wallace		
9	Oxford (A) JPT	.....W 2-1
Marquis, Agyemang		
Sat 12	Plymouth (A)	....D 1-1
Wallace		
Sat 19	Bury (H)	.....W 1-0
N'Gala		
Sat 26	Torquay (A)	....D 1-1
Bird		

NOVEMBER

Sat 2	Exeter (H)	.....W 3-2
Holmes, Bird 2		
Sat 9	Stevenage (A, FAC)	..L 1-2
Connolly		
Tue 12	Newport (A, JPT)	..L 0-3
Sat 16	Wimbledon (A)	...L 0-4
Sat 23	Scunthorpe (H)	...L 1-2
Craddock		
Tues 26	Southend (H)	....L 1-2
Barcham		
Sat 30	Hartlepool (A)	....D 0-0

DECEMBER

Tues 4	Wycombe (H)	....D 2-2
Barcham, Agyemang		
Sat 14	Newport (H)	....L 0-2
Sat 21	Bristol Rovers (A)	...L 0-2
Thur 26	Dag & Red (H)	..W 1-0
Padovani		
Sun 29	Northampton (H)	..D 0-0

JANUARY

Wed 1	Southend (A)	....L 1-2
Bradley		
Sat 4	Accrington (H)	.....pp
Sat 11	Oxford United	.....(A)
Sat 18	Mansfield	.....(H)
Sat 25	Morecambe	.....(A)
Tues 28	Wycombe	.....(A)

FEBRUARY

Sat 1	Torquay	.....(H)
Sat 8	Exeter	.....(A)
Sat 15	Wimbledon	.....(H)
Sat 22	Scunthorpe	.....(A)

MARCH

Sat 1	Chesterfield	.....(A)
Sat 8	Cheltenham	.....(H)
Tues 11	Burton	.....(H)
Sat 15	Fleetwood	.....(A)
Sat 22	York	.....(H)
Tues 25	Rochdale	.....(A)
Sat 29	Newport	.....(A)

APRIL

Sat 5	Hartlepool	.....(H)
Sat 12	Dag & Red	.....(A)
Sat 19	Bristol Rovers	.....(H)
Mon 21	Northampton	.....(A)
Sat 26	Bury	.....(A)

MAY

Sat 3	Plymouth(H)
-------	----------	----------

THIS SEASON'S SAINTS STATISTICS - SEE PAGE 14

Eastleigh 2013/14 Conference South

August

17 Sutton (H)W1-0
Odubade
20 Bath City (A)W1-0
Strevens
24 Basingstoke (A)L0-2
26 Havant and W (H) ...D 0-0
31 Boreham Wood (A) ...W 3-0
McAllister, Fleetwood, Reason

September

7 Bromley (H)W 2-1
McAllister, Fleetwood
14 Maidenhead (A) ...W 3-1
Odubade 2, McAllister
17 Eastbourne (H)W 2-0
Reason, Southam
21 Hayes and Y (H) ...W 1-0
McAllister

October

5 Concord (H)D 1-1
Reason
8 Ebbsfleet (A)L 1-3
Fleetwood
19 Staines (H)W 1-0
Reason

November

2 Sutton (A)D 1-1
McAllister
9 Farnborough (H)W 1-0
McAllister
12 Gosport (A)W 2-0
Odubade, Southam
23 Tonbridge (H)L 1-2
Collins



CRAIG MCALLISTER

December

17 Dover (A)W 2-1
Strevens, Fleetwood
26 Dorchester Town (A) W 2-1
Strevens, Reason
28 Bath City (H)W 2-1
Strevens, Collins

January

14 Dover Ath(A)
18 Gosport Borough(H)
21 Weston-super-Mare ... (A)
25 Ebbsfleet United(H)
28 Bromley(A)

February

1 Whitehawk(A)
8 Maidenhead United(H)
15 Tonbridge Angels(A)
18 Bishops Stortford(A)
22 Farnborough(A)
25 Chelmsford(H)

March

1 Weston-super-Mare(H)
8 Concord Rangers(A)
15 Bishop's Stortford(H)
22 Staines Town(A)
29 Hayes and Yeading U ..(A)

April

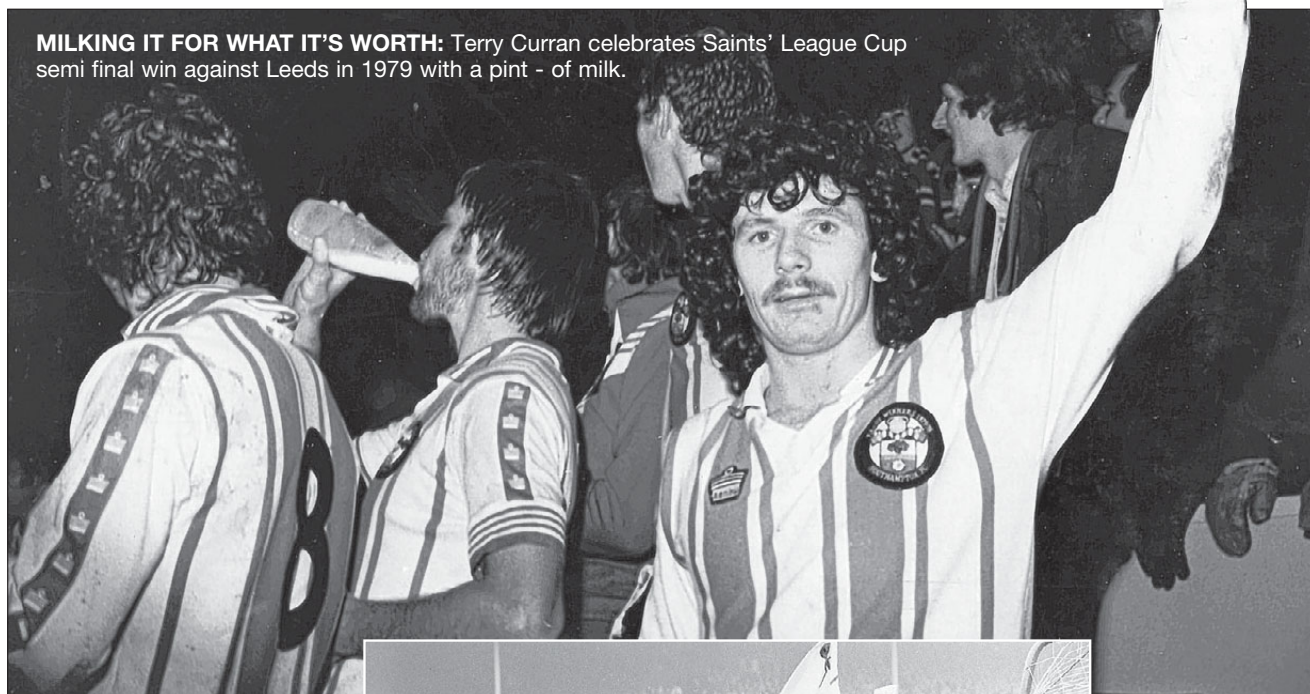
5 Whitehawk(H)
12 Chelmsford City(A)
19 Basingstoke Town(H)
21 Havant and W(A)
26 Boreham Wood(H)

TBA: Dorchester(H)

Saints Spotlight

SAINTS WIN AND KI

MILKING IT FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH: Terry Curran celebrates Saints' League Cup semi final win against Leeds in 1979 with a pint - of milk.



from page 23

November 4, 1986
League Cup 3rd round replay
Saints 4 Manchester United 1

After a 0-0 draw in the first game at Old Trafford, Saints swept Manchester United aside and helped alter English football forever.

Thirty six hours after Saints' victory, Ron Atkinson was sacked and replaced with Alex Ferguson.

The rest we know ...

As well as that, the legend of Matt Le Tissier was born in this game as he scored his first ever goals for the club.

Two from Le Tissier and goals apiece from Danny Wallace and George Lawrence secured what has become a famous win.

December 2, 2003
League Cup third round
Saints 2 Portsmouth 0

It is always nice to get one over on your rivals, and it's even nicer if you can do it twice in one month.

And that's exactly what Saints did in December 2003.

The first match was this League Cup tie at St Mary's - the first time the two clubs had ever met in the competition.

James Beattie scored a brace and Pompey's Arjan De Zeeuw was sent off. His subsequent suspension ruled him out Pompey's 3-0 Premier League loss at the same stadium three days before Christmas.

January 30, 1979
Semi-final 2nd leg
Saints 1 Leeds United 0

After a 2-2 draw at Elland Road, in which Saints battled back from 2-0



GREAT SUPPORT: Some of the Saints fans who travelled to White Hart Lane for an FA Cup tie against Nottingham Forest in 1963.

down, it all came down to a big decider at The Dell.

Terry Curran gave Saints the perfect start when he scored after 11 minutes.

Saints held on to set up a Wembley final against the then mighty Nottingham Forest.

It was Curran's only goal for the club in an otherwise unsuccessful spell at The Dell.

Saints lost the final 3-2, but there was no embarrassment in that given that Forest lifted the European Cup a few months later.

February 13, 1963
FA Cup Third Round
Saints 5 York City 0

It was coming up to mid-February and Saints hadn't played since

Boxing Day. A terrible winter, the worst in living memory, had consigned the club to a lengthy break.

Saints' first ever meeting with York

DERBY SUCCESS:

James Beattie keeps quiet after scoring in the League Cup win against Pompey in December 2003.



Saints Spotlight

CK OFF FERGIE'S RULE!



THE LEGEND IS BORN: Matt Le Tissier, top and above, scores his first ever Saints goals past Chris Turner in a 4-1 League Cup win against Manchester United in November 1986. Ron Atkinson was sacked two days later and Alex Ferguson appointed.

finally took place a month after the date it was originally scheduled for.

After nine postponements, Saints stormed to victory with George O'Brien plundering a hat-trick.

Ken Wimhurst and Dave Burnside also scored as Saints started a run which was to take them to a semi final loss to Manchester United.

**January 7, 1961
FA Cup Third
Round
Saints 7
Ipswich 1**

A truly miserable afternoon for ex-Saints star Alf Ramsey, who was the Ipswich manager.

Saints hammered the club who ended the season as the Second Division champions.

Twelve months later, at the end of the 1961/62 season, Ramsey had led Ipswich to the top flight title at the first attempt.

That was a feat emulated by Brian Clough's Nottingham Forest in 1977/78, but will almost certainly never be matched again.

George O'Brien led the rout with a hat-trick with further goals coming from Tommy Mulgrew (2), Harry Penk and Terry Paine.

**April 8, 1963
FA Cup QF 2nd replay
Saints 5 Nottingham
Forest 0**

After a 1-1 draw at the City Ground followed by a 3-3 draw at The Dell, the second replay was played on neutral turf at Tottenham's White Hart Lane.

Around 25,000 Saints fans travelled, the largest exodus from the town – in peace time. Saints were Division Two strugglers, whereas Forest were sitting in mid-table in the top flight.

In a Dell-like atmosphere, Dave Burnside opened the scoring with a 25-yard strike. On the brink of the half-time

break, Ken Wimhurst doubled the advantage after he was played in by George O'Brien.

At the interval 3,000 more Saints supporters arrived.

With that, Saints continued their domination.

Wimhurst was on song and a rampant second half display saw Forest obliterated.

Burnside fired home another screamer before O'Brien made it four.

With Saints in a buoyant mood and with the supporters creating a constant wall of noise, a seven-man move was capped off by O'Brien.

Great cup wins special continued on page 26

**Gosport Borough
2013/14**

Conference South

August

17 Dover (H) L 0-1
20 Basingstoke (A) L 1-2
Brown
24 Bath City (A) D 1-1
Brown
26 Dorchester (H) D 1-1
Wooden
31 Bromley (A) L 1-2
Bennett

September

7 Maidenhead (H) L 0-2
14 Boreham Wood (A) L 0-2
21 Tonbridge (H) W 2-0
Brown, Williams

October

5 Bishop's Stortford (A) L 0-4
19 Ebbsfleet United (A) L 1-2
og
26 Chelmsford City (H) W 2-1
Brown, Sills

November

2 Whitehawk (A) D 1-1
Brown



GOAL-GETTER: Mike Gosney.

12 Eastleigh (H) L 0-2
22 Farnborough (A) L 0-1
26 Staines (H) W 2-0
Richardson, Gosney

December

7 Concord (A) W 2-0
Wooden, Williams
26 Havant and W (A) L 0-3

January

18 Eastleigh (A)
25 Weston-super-Mare (A)
31 Farnborough (H)

February

8 Chelmsford City (A)
15 Weston-super-Mare (H)
22 Ebbsfleet (H)

March

1 Dover Athletic (A)
8 Staines Town (A)
15 Boreham Wood (H)
22 Hayes and Y (A)
25 Tonbridge (A)
29 Bishop's Stortford (H)

April

5 Concord (H)
12 Eastbourne (A)
19 Bath City (H)
21 Dorchester (A)
26 Bromley (H)

Sholing 2013/14 Wessex League

August

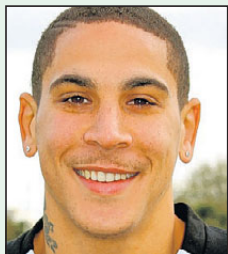
2 US Portsmouth (LC, H) . . . W 9-0
Wort 4, Jarvis 3, Brewster, Carter
6 Romsey (H) . . . W 5-0
Wort 2, Barry Mason, Byron Mason,
Cox
9 Bournemouth (H) . . . W 1-0
13: Alresford Town (A) . . . W 4-0
Byron Mason 2, Wort, Jarvis
17 Downton (FAC, A) . . . W 3-1
Jarvis, Barry Mason, Diaper
20: Downton (A) . . . W 3-0
Wort 2, Jarvis
23 Blackfield & L (H) . . . W 3-2
27 Bemerton (A) . . . D 2-2
McLean, Castle
31 Totton & E (FAC, A) . . . D 0-0

September

3 Totton & E (FACR, H) . . . W 2-1
Jarvis, Carter
7 Hamworthy (A) . . . W 4-0
Miller, Wort, Fennemore, Bowers
14 AFC Totton (FAC, H) . . . W 4-0
Wort 2, Fennemore, Bowers
17 Tadley Calleva (LC) . . . W 6-1
Thomson 3, Castle, Miller, Brewster
21 Whitchurch (A) . . . W 2-1
Wort, Bowers
28 Clevedon (FAC, A) . . . L 0-2
Cup

October

1 Moneyfields (H) . . . W 3-1
Wort, Fennemore, Bowers
4 Winchester City (A) . . . W 3-0
Wort, Castle, Jarvis
8 Cowes (HSC, A) . . . W 6-0
Wort (2), Castle, Watts, Brewster,
Barry Mason
12 Newport (H) . . . D 1-1
Byron Mason
19 Winchester City (Vase, A) . W 1-0
Barry Mason
25th Fareham Town (H) . . . W 6-0
Barry Mason, Byron Mason, Wort,



BYRON MASON

Jarvis, Bright, Castle
29th Winchester (LC, A) . . . W 5-4
Watts (2), Bright, Barry Mason,
Byron Mason

November

2nd Totton & Eling (A) . . . W 3-0
Taylor, Jarvis, Byron Mason
5 Lymington Town (RC, A) . . W 3-1
Byron Mason, McLean, Jarvis
9 Fawley (H) . . . W 3-0
Diaper, Wort, Jarvis
16 Follands (FAV, A) . . . W 2-1
Wort, Carter
20th Newport (H) . . . W 3-2
Bright, Wort, Watts
23 Christchurch (A) . . . W 3-0
Barry Mason, McLean, Castle
26 Bemerton (LC, H) . . . W 7-0
Barry Mason (2), Wort (2), Castle (2),
Byron Mason
30 Lymington (H) . . . W 5-1
Jarvis (3), Barry Mason, Cox

December

7 Reading (FAV, A) . . . W 4-1
Byron Mason, Barry Mason, Wort,
McLean
10 Havant & W (HSC, H) . . . L 0-3
14 Alresford (A) . . . W 3-2
Bowers, Jarvis, Wort
17 Brockenhurst (H) . . . W 5-0
Barry Mason, Jarvis (2), Wort.
26 Folland Sports (A) . . . W 2-1
Wort, Castle.
28 Downton . . . W 12-1
Wort (4), Jarvis (3), Diaper, Bowers,
Sawyer, Watts, Byron Mason.

Saints Spotlight

RON'S A BIG HIT IN

From page 25

September 14 1966 League Cup 2nd rd Saints 4 Plymouth 3

Ron Davies scored his first Saints hat-trick as Saints came from 0-2 down against lower division opponents at The Dell.

Two goals adrift after just 14 minutes, Saints were level after 20 thanks to a brace from the Welshman.

Davies completed the recovery by scoring a trademark header from a Terry Paine cross two minutes into the second half.

Paine made it 4-2 from the penalty spot after Davies had been fouled by the visiting keeper, before Argyle set up a nervous finale.

Prior to the tie, Davies had scored four goals in his last five top flight games. He finished his debut season at The Dell with 37 goals in 41 outings – a total which has never been beaten since.

January 29 1992 Zenith Data Systems Cup Area Final 2nd leg Chelsea 1 Saints 3

Though Saints had won the first leg 2-0 at The Dell, they still travelled to Stamford Bridge second bottom of the old First Division to face eighth-placed Chelsea.

But any hopes the Blues had of making their league position count were dashed after only six minutes.

That was when Jason Cundy was sent off for a professional foul on Alan Shearer and Matt Le Tissier converted the resultant penalty.

Saints were 4-0 up on aggregate and Wembley-bound after 20 minutes when Le Tissier fired past keeper Kevin Hitchcock.

Ex-Saints trainee Dennis Wise reduced the arrears before half-time with a penalty of his own after a Neil Ruddock handball.

But Le Tissier completed his hat-trick – and clinched Saints' first Wembley appearance for 13 years – four minutes into the second half.

It was fair to say the ZDS, even with the carrot of a final appearance beneath the Twin Towers, failed to capture the public's interest. Saints could only pull in 8,726 for their first leg against Chelsea, with another sub-10,000 crowd at Stamford Bridge.

Ian Branfoot's men lost 3-2 in the final to Nottingham Forest.

20 March 1984 FA Cup round 6

Saints 5 Sheffield Wed 1

During Saints' most successful league season, their FA Cup journey looked as if it was going to go all the way to Wembley.

But, like the title hopes, their ultimate fate was decided in 1-0 defeats to Everton in the cup semi-final and in Division One.

Amid possible talk of a league and

DIVING IN VAIN: Sheffield Wednesday keeper Martin Hodge can't prevent team-mate Gavin Oliver's own goal from putting Saints ahead in the 1984 FA Cup quarter-final replay at The Dell. Mark Wright, right, and Steve Moran, below, are also pictured scoring in a 5-1 success.



cup double after coming off the back of a 2-0 win over league leaders Liverpool, Saints were in incredibly high spirits.

After earning a draw at second tier high-fliers Sheffield Wednesday, Lawrie McMenemy's men were stunned when the Owls took an early lead.

But the hosts hit back through Steve Williams and an Oliver own

goal to lead at half-time

Saints powered to an eventual comfortable success thanks to second half goals from Mark Wright. Steve Moran and Dave Armstrong.

13 April 2003 FA Cup semi-final Saints 2 Watford 1

Saints' run to the final at the Millennium Stadium was, com-

pared to the ties they could have had, a fairly easy one.

They only faced one fellow Premier League club, thrashing Tottenham 4-0 in the third round.

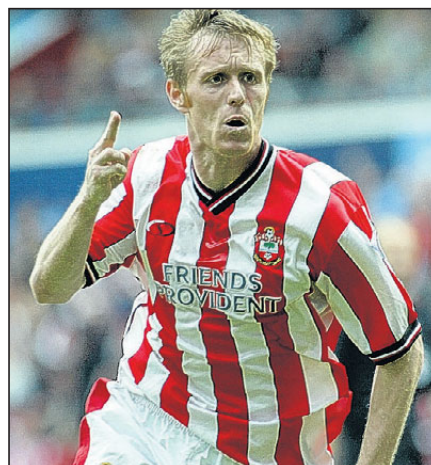
After beating Millwall, Norwich and Wolves, Saints were paired with another Championship club, Watford, in the last four.

The semi at Villa Park guaranteed the winner UEFA Cup football

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Saints Spotlight

HIS FIRST SEASON



1-0: Brett Ormerod celebrates putting Saints ahead in the 2003 F A Cup semi final against Watford at Villa Park.



2-0: Paul Robinson puts through his own goal under pressure from James Beattie.



CARDIFF HERE WE COME: Strikers James Beattie and Brett Ormerod celebrate with boss Gordon Strachan.

for the following season, as finalists Arsenal were destined for a Champions League finish.

Brett Ormerod opened the scoring for Saints in the first half.

Paul Robinson put through his own net with 10 minutes left, before Marcus Gayle gave Saints a nervous finale with an 88th minute consolation.

Saints survived to book them-

selves their first FA Cup final appearance since 1976.

September 18 1974
Texaco Cup QF 1st leg
Glasgow Rangers 1 Saints 3

Saints scored an impressive win at Ibrox against a Rangers side who only lost twice at home in the league all season en route to win-

ning the Scottish League title by seven points.

Peter Osgood scored twice for the visitors, who were still getting accustomed to playing in the second tier following relegation the previous season.

Osgood netted in the 40th and 47th minutes, with Rangers levelling in between through a Colin Jackson penalty.

Having helped set up Osgood's double strike, Mick Channon was instrumental in creating Saints' third for Gerry O'Brien as the visitors stunned a 35,000 attendance.

Saints won the second leg 2-0 at The Dell with a Paul Gilchrist opener followed by a Jackson own goal.

They went onto reach the final before losing 3-1 on aggregate to Newcastle United.

AFC Totton 2013/14

Southern League Premier

August

17: Stourbridge (H)L 1-4
Edwards
20: Bideford (A)L 0-4
24: Bedford(A)L 2-3
Roberts, Edwards
26: Bashley (H)W 3-1
Moulard (2), Roberts
31: Chippenham (A) ...W 2-1
Noakes, Moth

September

3:Truro (H)L 2-3
Roberts, Hill
7: St Albans (H)L 2-5
Roberts 2
17: Weymouth (A)L 1-2
Moth
21: Cambridge (A)L 0-3

October

5: Banbury (H)L1-3
October
26: Arlesley (H)D 2-2
Hill, Robertson
29: Truro (A)L 2-3
Branford, Branker

November

5: Weymouth (H)L 0-1
12: Frome (H)L 0-5
16: Hitchin (H)L 0-5
23: Chesham (A)L 1-4



ZAC MOULARD

26 Hemel Hempstead (A) .L 1-8
Moulard
30 Biggleswade (H)L 1-5
House

December

7 Redditch UnitedL 1-2
Edwards
10 Chippenham (H)W 3-1
Moth, House, Roberts
17: Poole (A)PP
21: St Neots Town (A) ...L 0-6
28: Bideford (H)D 2-2
Moulard, Jennings

January

11: Hitchin Town(A)
13: St Albans City(A)
18: Chesham United(H)
22: Corby Town(A)
25: Hemel Hempstead(H)

February

1: Biggleswade(A)
8: Redditch(H)
15: Hungerford(A)
22: St Neots Town(H)

March

1 Banbury(A)
8 Cambridge(H)
15 Frome(A)
22 Corby(H)
29 Arlesley(A)

April

5 Poole(H)
12 Stourbridge(A)
19 Bedford Town(H)
21 Burnham(A)

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03 Mar : Somerset Coast & Country 5 day	£219
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09 Mar : Valkenburg & Monschau 6 day	£349
09 Mar : Scottish Winter Warmer 6 day	£339
10 Mar : Isle of Wight - Mock Cruise 5 day	£219
10 Mar : Sidmouth & The Jurassic Coast 5 day	£304
15 Mar : Lake Garda 8 day	£539
16 Mar : Austrian House Party 8 day	£529
16 Mar : Rhine & Moselle Valleys 6 day	£359
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17 Mar : Warners Nidd Hall 5 day	£379
17 Mar : Jersey 5 day	£299
22 Mar : London City Break 3 day	£169
23 Mar : Czech House Party 8 day	£579
24 Mar : Ilfracombe Winter Warmer 5 day	£189
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Non-league Football

Eastleigh 2013/14

Conference South

August

17 Sutton (H)W1-0
Odubade
20 Bath City (A)W1-0
Strevens
24 Basingstoke (A)L0-2
26 Havant and W (H)D 0-0
31 Boreham Wood (A)W 3-0
McAllister, Fleetwood, Reason

September

7 Bromley (H)W 2-1
McAllister, Fleetwood
14 Maidenhead (A)W 3-1
Odubade 2, McAllister
17 Eastbourne (H)W 2-0
Reason, Southam
21 Hayes and Y (H)W 1-0
McAllister

October

5 Concord (H)D 1-1
Reason
8 Ebbsfleet (A)L 1-3
Fleetwood
19 Staines (H)W 1-0
Reason

November

2 Sutton (A)D 1-1
McAllister
9 Farnborough (H)W 1-0
McAllister



CRAIG MCALLISTER

12 Gosport (A)W 2-0
Odubade, Southam
23 Tonbridge (H)L 1-2
Collins

December

17 Dover (A)W 2-1
Strevens, Fleetwood
21 Chelmsford City (H)pp
26 Dorchester Town (A)W 2-1
Strevens, Reason
28 Bath City (H)W 2-1
Strevens, Collins

January

1 Dorchester Town (H)pp
4 Eastbourne Boroughpp
11 Bishop's Stortford(A)
14 Dover(H)
18 Gosport Borough(H)
21 Weston-super-Mare(A)
25 Ebbsfleet United(H)
28 Bromley(A)

February

1 Whitehawk(A)
8 Maidensford United(H)
15 Tonbridge Angels(A)
18 B Stortford(A)
22 Farnborough(A)
25 Chelmsford(H)

March

1 Weston-super-Mare(H)
4 Eastbourne(A)
8 Concord Rangers(A)
15 Bishop's Stortford(H)
22 Staines Town(A)
29 Hayes and Yeading U(A)

April

5 Whitehawk(H)
12 Chelmsford City(A)
19 Basingstoke Town(H)
21 Havant and W(A)
26 Boreham Wood(H)
TBA: Dorchester(H)

MY AMAZING TIME AT

GOALKEEPERS are renowned for being a unique breed, imbued with personal peculiarities.

Ross Flitney's desire to be dressed all in white when he is stationed between the Eastleigh posts, therefore, is nothing unusual among the men who answer this most unforgiving football calling, *writes PAUL McNAMARA.*

"I prefer it. I've always wanted a white goalie kit. I don't know what it is, but the club this year have helped me out and got me one," he said.

"I think it's just the bigger and brighter the colour, the more off putting it is when you see it in the corner of your eye if someone's coming at you.

"So yeah, I do enjoy wearing white."

The Everton and Wales goalkeeping great, Neville Southall, took to wearing black late in his career, owing to his belief that it lent him a more imposing presence in the face of opposing strikers.

That Flitney, albeit inadvertently, echoes in his fastidious approach a man who was once recognised as the planet's premier shot-stopper should surprise nobody.

The 29-year-old began his preparations young for life as a keeper – after some fatherly influence.

"Believe it or not, it wasn't actually my choice. It was my dad's choice.

"He seemed to tell everyone that the first time he kicked a ball at me I picked it up rather than kicked it back. From then on he put me in goal.

"I started playing for a team on a Sunday at about six years old. After one game, I thoroughly enjoyed it and stayed with it."

Flitney is acutely aware of the pressure that comes with filling his chosen position and, more pertinently, the likely outcome if he errs in his job.

He is somewhat grateful, then, for his opportunity, at the outset of his career at Premier League Fulham, to learn from some of the finest exponents of the goalkeeping art.

Chief among them, the decorated Dutchman Edwin van der Sar.

MAIK TAYLOR

LEARNING FROM THE BEST: Ross Flitney was helped by Edwin van der Sar early in his career.



'Edwin was' unbelievable. He had so much time for the young lads'

"It was four amazing years to work with him and all the others that were there.

"Maik Taylor, Marcus Hahnemann, Mark Crossley, Peter Bonetti, and Dave Beasant who was the

goalkeeping coach.

"There were some big names there. They were all great.

"Edwin was unbelievable. He had so much time for the young lads. He taught me to always keep calm within myself even though I'm quite vocal during games, and about the need to keep relaxed on the pitch.

"If things don't go your way or you make a mistake, which is inevitably going to happen, there's a way to deal with it.

"The mental approach is to accept it's happened, it's gone, you can't

do anything about it.

"It's the same if you do something notable like save a penalty. You've done it now, you can't live off it.

"That's it, it's over.

"He still has a massive effect on my career now."

The lot of the goalkeeper, their efforts often destined to be recalled for a rare costly slip rather than a string of reliable performances, is something that Flitney accepts with typical equanimity.

"It's something that, the older you get you learn to deal with more quickly. That's a natural part of a

TODAY'S NON-LEAGUE ACTION - TURN BACK TO PAGE 15

Non-league Football

FULHAM – FLITNEY

PUNCH PERFECT: Ross Flitney clears the danger for Eastleigh.



goalkeeper's development.

"It's not uncommon that, as they mature, they make fewer mistakes anyway.

"It's purely down to the way you approach it.

"You just have to realise that nobody means to make mistakes. You only want to be the best you can be.

"If you do something wrong, you just have to live with it.

"You can't change it, whether it was a wrong decision, mishandling the ball, anything.

"After the game you might want

to look back and see what you could have done differently, but until that final whistle you've just got to put it straight out of your mind.

"When the whistle goes again to get the game back under way, it's forgotten.

"People have commented on the fact that if I have made a mistake in a game you might see me smiling or laughing.

"It's not that I'm happy I've done it.

"It's just my way of dealing

EDWIN VAN DER SAR

with it, and that allows me to put it to the back of my mind until the end of the game.

"I

don't tend to dwell on too much anyway.

"It affects you too far into the future if you start thinking on Sunday night and Monday morning about a game that happened on Saturday.

"You're training again on Monday, and if you've still got something on your mind I don't believe you're going to work as well as you can."

Indeed, Flitney has good reason to be tuned in for each of his three weekly training sessions.

Having signed permanently at Eastleigh in February 2013, following 18 months with then League Two outfit Gillingham, the former Dover Athletic man has grown used to leading goalkeeping coaching at the club.

It is a far cry from the days in south-west London, spent sur-

'If I have made a mistake in a game you might see me smiling or laughing'

rounded by a who's who of his trade.

"I think if there was a coach to come in it would help," he commented.

"It's not a massive pressure but it might take a bit off me with respect to planning sessions, and not knowing exactly how much time I'm going to get.

"It's not always possible to get through everything we want to.

"Another pair of eyes on me would be great. That could only help.

"At the minute the club's not in a position to do that. We've got other priorities.

"It's something we might look at if we do get promoted – if I'm here, or for any goalkeeper that comes in.

"I really enjoy working the keepers.

"Going into coaching is something I've never put too much thought into because I just want to keep playing for as long as possible, but I do thoroughly enjoy trying to progress the young lads."

Flitney's nascent coaching skills were put to the test when a recent eye infection opened the door for reserve custodian, Jack Dovey, to step in for games against

CONT ON PAGE 32

Non-league News

Town boss looking for Davies solution

RICHARD Gillespie is not the only former AFC Totton star battling injury at Poole Town.

Ex-Testwood Stadium winger Jono Davies, pictured below, has missed seven of Poole's 18 Southern Premier matches this season after being blighted by bouts of hamstring trouble.

The injury to top scorer Gillespie – an inflammation of the tissue on the sole of the foot – saw the Dolphins enlist the help of AFC Bournemouth physio Steve Hard and Cherries' anti-gravity treadmill.

And with manager Tom Killick convinced that Davies' long commutes to Tatnam from Wiltshire have been detrimental, he is looking at alternative solutions to help the skilful midfielder.

"Jon's situation has become a bit of a concern as he has had his share of hamstring troubles this season and I think we are going to have to look at helping him in some other way," said Killick.

"He lives towards Bristol and spends a lot of time travelling to training and getting to matches.

"He's sat all that time and then plays or trains and I don't think it's a coincidence that he has picked up a lot of muscular injuries.

"Maybe we have to consider a different sort of stretching regime or ways of alleviating the amount he drives if we can. If necessary, we might have to be willing to let him train somewhere closer to home because there has to be a link there somewhere."

Davies's on-off hamstring problems have opened the door for summer signing Ekow Elliott, who was part of Blackfield & Langley's Sydenhams Premier championship-winning side last season.

"To be fair to young Ekow, he came on early in the game against Weymouth as a replacement for Davo and did very well," said Killick.

Despite their injury woes, Poole are in good shape to press for promotion having won their last five league matches and conceded just two goals in eight unbeaten Southern Premier encounters.

"There is a really good spirit in the camp," said Killick.

"At the start of the season, I wasn't sure the players had that real belief that they could win promotion, but I feel they do now. Results have helped, but much of it comes from the realisation that we have a very strong group.

"The existing players have got to know the quality and mentality of the new players over a number of games and vice-versa."

Poole's scheduled trip to Biggleswade on Tuesday was postponed due to a waterlogged pitch, keeping Killick's men sixth.



Joining Eastleigh one of the best decisions I've ever made – Flitney

from page 31

Gateshead and Dover – both of which ended in Spitfires' victory.

The 21 year-old ex-Saint was beaten just once in his 180 minutes of action.

So did Flitney, pictured below, see his tutoring methods bearing fruit?

"I didn't think of it like that. Jack's done that himself," he remarked.

"He's done the work. I'm only putting the sessions on, but after the games he said 'thanks'.

"There were a couple of things he wasn't happy with that had happened and he specifically asked to work on them.

"We've re-created situations since and talked about various things.

"He's happy that if he goes into that situation again he'll be able to deal with it a bit better, although I didn't think he did much wrong. We won both games.

"We're going for promotion so it's more about getting three points than having 11 players playing unbelievably well."

A man with a real drive to break back into the Football League – "I think I'm still more than capable of playing at that level (League Two), if not higher" – Flitney still did not hesitate when offered the chance, after two previous one-month loan spells at the Silverlake, to sign for Eastleigh on a permanent basis.

"You always want to try and play as high as you can but, having been a year out, if you're not in that shop window you tend to get forgotten about," he remarked.

"First and foremost, I wanted to get back out playing and it's one of the best decisions I've ever made."

There have been a few setbacks along Flitney's course thus far.

In particular, when as a 21-year-old Barnet player he was sent off two minutes into a League Cup tie against Manchester United at Old Trafford.

Even that incident, which United manager Sir Alex Ferguson described as "shattering a young boy's dream", didn't overly perturb this most unflappable of characters.

"That was difficult. I'm not going to lie. I received a lot of press before the game due to the link with Edwin Van Der Sar, although he didn't end up playing anyway," Flitney recalled.

"It was quite upsetting at the time, but a few days later it was done and dealt with.

"I swore blind that I was in the box, but I probably was just outside (Flitney was red carded for handling outside his penalty area).

"It was disappointing. You never know, if I'd have gone on and had an amazing game, kept a clean sheet, my career might have gone in a different direction.

"That wasn't to be and the

following day the card was reduced to a yellow, which helps a little bit.

"It's one of those things, though. It got me a lot of press and any press is good press.

"It was more disheartening that they had to substitute one of my mates (Louis Soares).

"He didn't get to touch the ball.

Then they scored direct from the free-kick – but, you know, it happens."

Eight years after he hit the national headlines, Flitney confesses he is in some of the form of his life, and believes there is plenty of room for improvement yet.

"I've enjoyed my entire time here.

Towards the end of last season, and again this season, I think I've been playing some of my best football and I don't feel like I'm in my prime yet.

"A goalkeeper's prime years are between 30 and 35, and I've got six months until I hit that.

"I don't know if I'll make 40, but I'd certainly like to play a few more years."

It was only a knee injury that halted the Hertfordshire man's Football League renaissance with Gillingham, having won his way back to that level in 2011 after four years playing in the Conference.

"It was a really good opportunity. Andy Hessenthaler took me after being my manager at Dover," he explained.

"It was nice knowing he had that faith in me.

"It took me a couple of weeks in pre-season to get back up to speed.

"The balls were moving a bit quicker and they are better players.

"Once I felt settled in I was really comfortable there.

"It was a great first three or four months until I was injured. We tried a few options to keep me playing, but after three injections that was enough really. It was time to pull myself out.

"I couldn't do what I wanted to do anymore.

"Going there was brilliant and without the injury it might have been a different story."

Flitney's immediate concerns are focused wholly on the club that gave him the precious opportunity to play football once Martin Allen – who had succeeded Hessenthaler at the Gills' helm – informed the keeper he was free to leave the

Priestfield Stadium.

"We're doing extremely well. Bromley have got a bit of a head start on us but that's only due to the games we've got to catch up on," he said.

"If we keep doing what we're doing and don't worry about anyone else I think we'll get promoted."

With only 13 goals conceded in his 18 league outings this season, Conference Premier forwards would be advised to prepare for a real test of their credentials if they are tasked with beating the man in white.

Follow Paul McNamara on twitter @mcnamara_sport



FORMER HANTS SCHOOLBOY OUT TO REIGN IN SPAIN

PRO DREAM: Alejandro Arguelles.

ATLETICO Madrid are the talk of Spanish soccer and beyond just now.

Pressing Barcleona every inch of the way for the la Liga title and into the last 16 of the UEFA Champions League, things have seldom been better than under Diego Simeone at the famous Vicente Calderon Stadium, writes MIKE VIMPANY.

One youngster lapping it all up is 14-year old Alejandro (Ale) Arguelles, the former Kings' School, Winchester, pupil, who is now making his mark in the goalkeeping arena of Atletico Madrid's junior academy.

Alejandro, pictured right, boarded at Kings' for two years before returning to his native Madrid in July.

While he was at Kings' he not only shone academically, but also looked a class act playing for the school's Year 7 and Year 8 soccer teams.

Captain

Since being spotted at a summer camp, Ale has set his heart on becoming a professional footballer and has already established himself by being made captain of his Atletico Madrid academy side, which plays in the Spanish Division de Honour, the top competition for 14-year-olds and below.

"Things couldn't be much better just now," he beamed.

"Atletico Madrid are joint top of la Liga and play Barcelona here this weekend – and being made captain of my academy team is a great individual honour.

"The league in which we play is very challenging – all the top sides from Madrid and beyond play in it – but we have done well, only losing once so far.

"There are two groups of 14 teams, with Getafe and our arch rivals Real Madrid in our competition, so you can see how strong it is.

"We are now fourth in the league, with the academy teams from Real Madrid and Rayo Majadahonda just above us.



"We've played in three tournaments, winning two of them, so things are going OK.

"Technically, like all Spanish football, the players are very good, with terrific ball skills."

Combining school and soccer hasn't been a problem at all for the kid they nicknamed 'Ale' during his two years at Kings'.

"My school is virtually next door to my parents' house, so I'm out of one gate and into the next inside a minute," he laughed.

"School lasts nine hours each day and I normally finish lessons before 5 o'clock. I then do my homework and then train at the soccer academy for two hours three times a week, with games on Fridays and Saturdays.

"I love my football and probably play for 24 hours a week, either games or training."

Like at St Mary's, where Saints have Toni Jimenez as goalkeeping coach, Ale is tutored by a Spaniard.

"I get goalkeeper coaching from a guy also named Toni, who

played for Rayo Vallecano, one of our Madrid neighbours," Alejandro explained.

"His training sessions are great fun, but at the same time hard and testing. He expects nothing less than 100 per cent effort; I believe training is just as important as matches themselves."

Ale believes the academy at Atletico Madrid is one of the best in Spain – the total professionalism Diego Simeone has installed with the first team squad being replicated through the juniors.

"Atletico Madrid is my club and, every time I pull on the goalkeeper's jersey, I feel proud and honoured.

"I live about 15 minutes from the training ground so there's opportunities to go and watch the first team train and have pictures taken with them.

"I take specific interest in the way the goalkeepers train, especially Thibaut Courtois, who I believe is the best in the world just now.

"You can pick up so many tips from guys like him."

Ale has just enjoyed a Christmas break away from the competitive world of Spanish junior soccer and has his eyes set on taking his seat for next weekend's la Liga clash with Barcelona.

Buzzing

"We've made our best start in 100 years and the visit of Barca here next weekend heralds the start of what could be an incredible season for the club.

"We've drawn AC Milan in the Champions League and ought to win that, so the whole place is really buzzing," he smiled.

School resumed for Ale last Monday, but there's no question where the youngster's dreams lie.

"Running out in front of a full house at Vicente Calderon Stadium, wearing an Atletico jumper is my dream.

"I've got my foot on the ladder, so now it's up to me – and I intend to give it 100 per cent to try and make my dreams come true," he added.

EMAIL FOOTBALL NEWS TO echosport@daily.co.uk

Heartbreak for Hounsdawn



HEAD BOY: Hounsdawn's Dan Head (yellow) wins a header against Felpham. Order no: 17784843



HE'S BEHIND YOU! Hounsdawn's Ryan Jeffrey, left, wins the ball from a Felpham opponent.

Daily Echo pictures by Chris Moorhouse
Order no: 17784838

IT WAS heartbreak for Hounsdawn, whose hopes of progression in the English Schools FA Under-13 PlayStation Cup were dashed by a last minute Felpham goal in midweek.

With a place in the last 16 of the national competition beckoning, Hounsdawn were bullish about their prospects after George Coombes had cancelled out an early second-half Felpham strike.

But, with the tie poised to go into extra-time, Felpham grabbed a last ditch winner to claim a 2-1 victory, **writes MIKE VIMPANY.**

Defeated they may have been, but Hounsdawn go out with heads held high.

The knee injury that ruled Ben Scorey out of the previous round's win at Bohunt flared up again, leaving Hounsdawn minus their leading scorer.

Chances were at a premi-



STRIKE: Hounsdawn's George Coombes puts his foot through the ball. Order no: 17784850

um throughout an evenly contested opening half, in which goalkeeper Billy Phillips saved well from livewire Felpham striker Jack Van Drice.

Coombes was off target with Hounsdawn's only half-chance.

What was encouraging was the spirit the tie was played in – only once in the entire game did the referee have to whistle for a foul!

Luke McWinney headed just too high from a second half corner, but soon after

Felpham's Ollie Hamilton picked out teammate Seb Piotreicz with a lob and the visitors were in front.

Phillips saved well from Hamilton soon after, but soon Hounsdawn were level with a cracking equaliser.

Dan Head did extremely well to hold the ball up on the edge of the Felpham penalty box and, despite the attention of three defenders, managed to slip a pass into the path of Coombes.

The Hounsdawn striker let fly from fully 25 yards and struck a glorious low drive past the goalkeeper's despairing efforts.

Ryan Jeffrey, who beavered tirelessly for Hounsdawn, drilled another shot just too high.

But, just as extra-time was looming, Hounsdawn failed to cut out a cross and Piotreicz bundled home Felpham's winner.

DOUGLAS SETS THE TONE FOR DOMINANT ITCHEN

ITCHEN have opened up an eight-point lead at the top of the Hampshire Sixth Form Colleges League, which they are aiming to win for an unprecedented sixth successive year.

With their own Middle Road pitch waterlogged, Itchen's match against Basingstoke College of Technology was switched to Southampton Solent University's excellent 3G facility at Test Park that survived the deluge which wiped out the vast majority of other games in the colleges' midweek programme, **writes MIKE VIMPANY.**

The Itchen win was never in doubt after former Bitterne Park striker Braydon Douglas had put the Bitterne-based college in front with an emphatic left-footed finish from the penalty spot after 20 minutes. England Schools' trialist Kurtis Garraway doubled the Itchen lead from the edge of the



KURTIS GARRAWAY

area with a fierce drive into the bottom corner on 29 minutes.

By this stage, Itchen were playing some crisp, passing football on a surface that, if anything, plays even better after a good soaking.

Their third and fourth goals were both excellent team affairs, with the impressive Matt Gray applying the finishing touches to each.

Shortly after the break, Joe Griggs made it 5-0 with a mazy run followed by a neat chip over the advancing goalkeeper.

The influential Jamie Blackburn completed the scoring on 70 minutes with a 25-yard strike that found the net just under the crossbar.

Itchen have achieved clean sweeps of all Hampshire Colleges' men's and ladies' league titles, and an incredible third consecutive clean sweep is a real possibility this season with the men's first and third teams and the ladies' team all leading their respective leagues, and the second XI currently in second place.

The proverbial fly in the ointment towards another Itchen Grand Slam are Winchester-based Peter Symonds, who enjoy a five-point lead over Glenn Colmer's side at

the top of the Second XI League.

They achieved a double over Totton, with Ryan Crockford, Tinashe Chiguvare, Jordan Prince, Tom Nichols, and Sam Adams on target in the first team game.

PSC seconds, beaten only once this season and currently five points clear of Itchen, hit Totton for six, with the strikes being shared among Charlie Waite, Ollie Lerway, Henry Groves, Matt Stuppel, Cam Sahota and Charlie Pullen.

The other game to survive the elements was Queen Mary's beating Bournemouth 6-3 – another match played on an artificial 3G surface: clearly the way to go for education/community dual use.

Three times QMC went in front, each time Bournemouth hit back to equalise.

But QMC got hold of the game – and the points – in the closing 20 minutes, Adam Alliston finishing with a hat-trick, Jack Green two and Ash Pearce another.

Cup showdown
TESTWOOD Sports College face Bristol-based Gordano School, from Portishead, in the English Schools FA Under-16 Premier League Cup seventh round on their 3G surface at Testwood Lane on Wednesday, 2pm.

They have so far beaten Bitterne Park 3-1, Hounsdawn 1-0, Queen Elizabeth Wimborne 5-2, Beechen Cliff (Bath) 3-1 and the Oxford Academy after a penalty shoot-out.

Testwood name an unchanged squad: Kane Barry, Liam Bushrod, Dylan Gain, Connor Richards, Dan Richardson, Ryan Hartley, Matt Worthington, Kristian Longman, Callum Stanton, Ben Roberts, Ryan Lomax, Andy Huggett.

Gos go to Churchill
GOSPORT & Fareham play their long delayed English Schools FA Under-15 PlayStation Cup fourth round tie against North Somerset at the Churchill Academy next Saturday, January 18 (noon).

They earned a trip to the Somerset county border with a remarkable 10-1 win over Brent in the last round.

Southampton Boys went out of the competition when Cambridge beat them 2-1 before Christmas.

HAMPSHIRE COLLEGES LEAGUE LATEST TABLES

First XI	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Itchen	10	8	0	2	42	13	26
Portsmouth	9	5	1	3	36	19	18
Bournemouth	10	6	4	0	27	21	18
Brockenhurst	8	5	1	2	25	15	17
South Downs	10	5	4	1	28	19	16
Havant	9	5	3	1	26	24	16
Farnborough	10	5	4	1	22	22	16
Peter Symonds	11	5	5	1	39	42	16
Richard Taunton	9	5	4	0	29	18	15
Poole	9	4	3	2	22	19	14
Sparsholt	8	4	3	1	20	16	13
Barton Peveril	8	4	3	1	21	21	13
Queen Mary's	11	3	4	4	33	35	13
Bmouh & Poole	10	3	6	1	24	32	10
Alton	9	2	6	1	22	28	7
St Vincent	7	2	5	0	17	27	6
Basingstoke	10	1	8	1	11	40	4
Totton	10	0	8	2	13	46	2

Wednesday's fixtures: Barton Peveril v Poole Grammar, Bournemouth v Brockenhurst, Itchen v Richard Taunton, Peter Symonds v Farnborough, Portsmouth v Queen Mary's, South Downs v Totton, Sparsholt v Basingstoke, St Vincent v Alton.

Second XI	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Peter Symonds	11	10	1	0	62	15	30
Itchen	11	8	2	1	40	12	25
Bay House	11	7	2	2	28	18	23
South Downs	9	7	2	0	33	11	21
Brockenhurst	9	6	1	2	33	14	20
Barton Peveril	10	5	2	3	34	17	18
Eastleigh	9	6	3	0	27	13	18
Farnborough	10	5	4	1	29	23	16
Sparsholt	9	5	3	1	21	21	16
Queen Mary's	10	4	5	1	34	24	13
Totton	9	4	5	0	17	23	12
Portsmouth	10	3	5	2	17	30	11
Fareham	8	3	4	1	14	16	10
St Vincent	7	3	4	0	22	27	9
Richard Taunton	9	3	6	0	23	29	9
Havant	10	3	7	0	13	47	9
Poole	9	2	6	1	13	27	7
Alton	10	2	7	1	15	37	7
Bournemouth	10	0	8	2	6	40	2
Basingstoke	9	0	9	0	1	38	0

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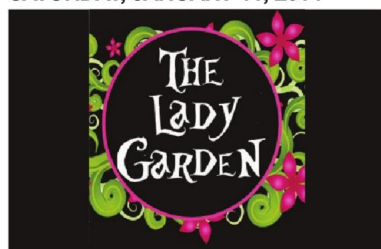
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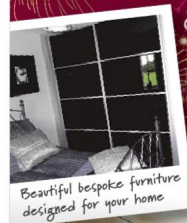
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Daily Echo

QUOTES of the week

"The players play too quickly, the players are always trying to cheat, because football is cheating" – Manchester City manager Manuel Pellegrini, right, admits referees have a nightmarish job.



"We play Kilmarnock on Sunday but I wouldn't even know where Kilmarnock is? Is it a city?" – New Aberdeen signing Alan Tate revealed he was still getting his bearings after making the move north of the border.

"I'm so proud of the players but I think our man of the match has to be the stadium manager Dave Jobson for getting the game to finish. I was starting to worry about whether or not the floodlights were going to come back on and as a former electrician myself I was going to go and have a look!" – Southend manager Phil Brown, after his side's 4-1 FA Cup upset of Millwall was almost derailed by floodlight failure.

"They brought on two England internationals. That shows the strength in depth they have. I was going to bring on my assistant" – Burnley manager Sean Dyche, pictured right, assesses Southampton's quality after the 4-3 FA Cup defeat.



"If I was a football manager I'd be scared of the old vote of confidence from the board" – England captain Alastair Cook after the 5-0 Ashes whitewash was confirmed.

"That was the best bowling attack I've faced in my career" – Cook on Australia's bowling line-up.

"Five-nil – how good's that? I'm shaking at the moment" – Australia batsman Steve Smith.

"Eusebio is one of the greatest footballers in the history of football. He's at this level – Eusebio, Charlton, Pele. For Portugal he means more than that. No colour, no clubs, no political sides. He enjoyed his life, on the pitch, outside the pitch and I'm not so sad as I was in the morning because I think guys like him they never die. History is there and history doesn't let them die" – Jose Mourinho pays tribute to Eusebio, who died at the age of 71 on Sunday.

"Without doubt, Eusebio was one of the finest players I ever had the privilege to play against. Not only that, he was a true sportsman, as he proved in applauding Alex Stepney for his save in the European Cup final" – Sir Bobby Charlton on Eusebio.

Adam Rant



This week's big talking points
with **Adam Leitch**

AS THE post-mortem into the disintegration of an England team, an England era even, begins after the Ashes whitewash, Alastair Cook should tell Andy Flower and Kevin Pietersen to work together – or BOTH leave the camp.

Flower has denied making a 'him or me' ultimatum to the ECB after taking some time to confirm his commitment to the England set-up, but enough reports are out there to suggest that things are not good between he and Pietersen.

The trouble is that they seem to embody totally opposite ways of being.

Flower is studious, methodical, maybe even a little boring and goes about setting up an England team with no stone left unturned, plans in place and a very sensible way of doing things.

Pietersen is the antithesis of that, the maverick genius of a batsman, whose very brilliance some of the time depends of his ability to express himself and make mistakes at other times.

Flower has led the England team in his own style and, under the captaincy of Andrew Strauss and Alastair Cook, they have played cricket in his mould.

It has been safe cricket.

Up until recently, it has been winning cricket which has made it easy for them to defend, but the problem with their style is that they have no further options.

They have got guys who are very good at delivering their set plans. But if you get a team that have something a bit different, can take them apart in some ways, they are left looking lost.

We saw it time and again over the Ashes series.

It is time for that to change and it has to be Cook that leads that.

He needs to step up and seize control – and that includes laying down the law to both Flower and Pietersen.

Pietersen is one of the few players in the side, arguably the only player, that has that certain X-factor to do something different.

He was the only player the Aussies genuinely feared.

Added to that,



ANDY FLOWER

COOK'S WAY OR

KP and Flower must work together or both leave for long-term good of team



Harsh to make Carbs Ashes scapegoat

MICHAEL Carberry could be one of those made something of a scapegoat for the Ashes defeat.

The Hampshire opener had earned himself a place in the side, but it might be that he struggles to figure again.

There is an argument that would be massively unfair on Carberry, pictured right.

After all, over the five Tests only Kevin Pietersen scored more runs than him from an England perspective.

He was also opening and facing Mitchell Johnson at his freshest.

However, what really hurt him was the lack of a genuinely big score.

Carberry's most substantial effort in ten innings was 60, which just doesn't look enough.

So often he got himself a start and then got out.

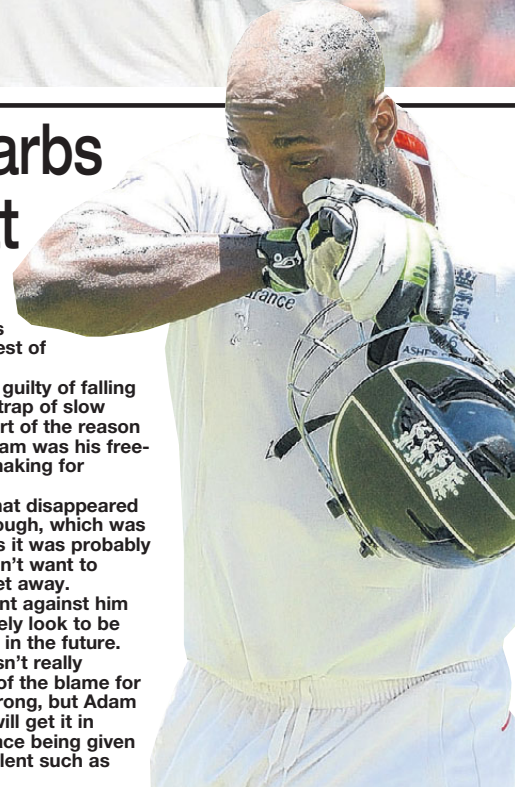
It must have been as infuriating for him as it was for the rest of us to watch.

Carberry was guilty of falling into England's trap of slow scoring too. Part of the reason he made the team was his free-flowing, shot-making for Hampshire.

So much of that disappeared in Australia, though, which was a real shame as it was probably because he didn't want to throw his wicket away.

But it will count against him as England surely look to be more attacking in the future.

Carberry doesn't really deserve much of the blame for things going wrong, but Adam Rant fears he will get it in terms of his place being given to a younger talent such as Sam Robson.



Pietersen showed a great deal of maturity at times, in particular in Melbourne when he really tried to dig in for his side.

At times he curbed his natural instinct after a few flaky dismissals. All right, he wasn't getting hampered for getting out cheaply, but also some of what he is in the team to do disappeared.

It seemed it was the ultimate expression of Pietersen attempting to fit into a mould which just doesn't suit him.

Flower's way of doing things has collapsed now.

HAMPSHIRE CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPS PICTURE SPECIAL - P44-45

Adam Rant



This week's big talking points
with **Adam Leitch**

THE HIGHWAY!



TALENT: Kevin Pietersen.

England, under Cook, must reinvent themselves, and that has to mean being more aggressive and more attacking in their style.

They cannot go back to relying on grinding it out against teams who are not as strong as the Aussies.

Well, they could, but it would be doing the English cricketing public a massive disservice.

If you are to play that style then surely the one player you have to have is Pietersen, and give him free licence to express himself.

It may be that rumours of Pietersen being somewhat of an outcast in the set-up are true, but if they are it's a failure of management as much as the player himself.

That's where Flower comes in.

If he feels he cannot deliver a new ethos that Cook should be demanding, he should go.

If he cannot do it with Pietersen in the team, then you have to question whether he actually is capable of delivering it because it calls into question his ability to manage exactly the kind of players required for the new style.

Pietersen cannot believe the world revolves around him but if he passes up the chance to make millions in the IPL to continue his England Test career, what more could you ask?

Sporting dressing rooms are always riddled with cliques and divisions, personalities and egos.

Nobody wants to see them divide a team, and nobody, Adam Rant included, wants to see either Flower or Pietersen depart the scene as a result of the Ashes debacle.

They should be part of the future and part of the solution, with Cook leading the way.

But if they cannot find a way to do that properly, then Cook must ask whether they should remain involved at all.

Aussies not a great team

PROBABLY the most disappointing thing for England is that they have been beaten 5-0 by a good, but not a great, Australian team.

All right, the Aussies undoubtedly have improved over the last nine months.

They have rebuilt like England now have to, which means going through some painful times to come out the other side.

Mitchell Johnson obviously made a huge impact as England simply couldn't handle his genuine pace, having had many of their good recent years up against some fairly average opposition in the grand cricketing scheme of things.

Their batting also improved.

David Warner's natural attacking flair so often got them off to a flier, while Brad Haddin



BEN STOKES

showed guts and led the tail, who were always aggressive.

But you have to say Michael Clarke remains the only genuine world class batsman in their ranks.

Australia were good and deserve credit for their performances, but don't make the mistake of thinking this is a great team.

They cannot hold a candle to sides that contained the likes of Shane Warne, Glenn McGrath, Ricky Ponting and Adam Gilchrist.

They might have been far too good for England, but they are not a golden generation.

It is worth noting, among all the doom and gloom, that two England players did emerge from a torrid winter with their reputations enhanced.

Stuart Broad was the pantomime villain and copped a whole load of stick, but always led the attack with only Mitchell Johnson and Ryan Harris taking more wickets in the series.

He also averaged just shy of 20 with the bat.

Ben Stokes also showed exactly the kind of spirit England need from their young players in the future.

To come into a struggling team and perform as he did took guts.

He has booked himself a deserved long-term spot in the side.

At least it's not all bad ...

QUOTES of the week

"I maintain (there are no divers at Chelsea). Isolated episodes. The referees are attacking it. The manager supports the referees. I think we are doing well.

Let's see if the others do the same as us" – Jose Mourinho, right, after accepting Ramires' yellow card for diving against Derby but refusing to condemn the Brazil midfielder.



"You asked for a clear answer. I think 'yes' is a pretty clear answer" – Andy Flower after being asked to elaborate on his simple "yes" to the question of whether he will remain as England team director following the Ashes mauling.

"It is a blow for him personally of course, and for both Arsenal and England. I spoke with Theo and just wanted to express my disappointment to him" – England manager Roy Hodgson on Theo Walcott being ruled out of the World Cup with a cruciate knee ligament injury.

"I'm coming out about my homosexuality because I want to move the discussion about homosexuality among professional sportspeople forwards" – former Aston Villa, West Ham and Germany international midfielder Thomas Hitzlsperger announces he is gay.

"Thomas Hitzlsperger has shown a lot of courage today. Sad times when people have to wait till they retire from their chosen profession before they feel other people will judge them solely on who the human being is. Shame on all of us as a society" – QPR midfielder Joey Barton reacts to Hitzlsperger's admission.

"We had a flat here but we had to get out, and Tony has moved in. I'm not sure if he's got my old car, but he's not having my woman" – Ian Holloway, left, gave his old job and house to Tony Pulis, but is clinging on to his wife.



"He dressed in a costume consisting of empty bottles of jagermeister and cans of Red Bull strapped to his chest in an attempted comedy play on the popular 'jager bomb drink'. Although he fully accepts in hindsight it was an ill-thought out and insensitive decision, absolutely no harm was intended whatsoever and he apologises for any offence caused." – Chris Smalling's management company issue an apology on behalf of the Manchester United defender after he was pictured wearing what appeared to be a suicide bomber's outfit at a private fancy dress party.

KEVIN PIETERSEN HIGHS AND LOWS - SEE PAGE 40

Hampshire Cricket Spotlight

KEVIN PIETERSEN ENGLAND HIGHS AND LOWS



HIGHS

DECEMBER 1999: Pietersen comes to England's attention for the first time, playing against them for KwaZulu Natal. Facing future international teammates and Ashes-winners Michael Vaughan and Andrew Flintoff, a 19-year-old Pietersen bowls 55.5 overs of his then frontline off-spin. Among his four victims are England captains past, present and future Michael Atherton, Nasser Hussain and Vaughan. Pietersen also makes an unbeaten 61 from number nine in the drawn four-day fixture in Durban.

2004/05: After making his England one-day international debut in Zimbabwe, on the back of prolific form for Nottinghamshire, he announces himself with three centuries in a 4-1 defeat in his native country.

SUMMER 2005: Pietersen is preferred to veteran Graham Thorpe in England's squad for the first Test against Australia. He ends the season by making an Ashes-clinching maiden Test century at The Oval, sparking famous celebrations – including an open-top bus tour of London the next day.

AUGUST 2008: He takes over the captaincy of both Test and one-day international teams, after Vaughan's resignation in the longer format during a home series defeat against South Africa. Pietersen marks his first match as captain, against his native country, with a century at The Oval.

MAY 2010: He is player of the tournament as England win their first ever International Cricket Council silverware, under Paul Collingwood's captaincy, in the World Twenty20 in the Caribbean.

AUGUST 2013: He scores a century in the third Ashes Test match against Australia to become the highest run scorer for England across all forms of cricket combined.

JANUARY 2014: Pietersen is England's top run-scorer in the 5-0 Ashes whitewash defeat to Australia, scoring 294 runs at an average of 29, and on the Test series' conclusion he expressed his desire to continue playing and help regain the urn in 2015.

LOWS

2006/07: Pietersen averages more than 50 as England bid to retain the Ashes but is part of a winter of failure for the team, including a 5-0 trouncing in Australia under Flintoff and then a controversial early exit from the World Cup in the Caribbean – which results, despite two centuries from him, in the end of Duncan Fletcher's tenure as coach.

JANUARY 2009: After a fraught tour of India, interrupted by terrorist attacks on Mumbai, reports emerge of a rift between Pietersen and coach Peter Moores. Both lose their jobs, Pietersen returning to the ranks for the tour of the West Indies as the Andrew Strauss-Andy Flower captain-coach axis takes hold.

MAY 2012: Pietersen is again fined by ECB for a Twitter faux pas, this time his criticism of Sky commentator Nick Knight. Barely a week later comes the shock announcement that he is to retire, at the age of 31, from all limited-overs international cricket.

AUGUST 2012: Pietersen refuses to give assurances that the final Test against South Africa at Lord's will not be his last for England, but is then left out amid allegations he sent derogatory text messages about his international teammates to members of the tourists' squad. Despite apologising, Pietersen is omitted from both the World Twenty20 and the NatWest International T20 Series against South Africa.

MARCH 2013: Forced to leave the tour of New Zealand before the final Test with a knee injury, which rules him out for three months.

MICHAEL Carberry's Test future is looking "pretty bleak" after his Ashes experience – according to an England legend.

The Hampshire left-hander was England's second highest runscore in what was his country's worst ever Ashes series defeat in Australia.

The 33-year-old, making his return to the Test arena after an absence of more than three and a half years, compiled 281 runs at 28.10 at the top of the order.

The only tourist to score more was Carberry's former Hampshire colleague Kevin Pietersen, who managed 294 at 29.40.

Newcomer Ben Stokes, though, scored just two fewer runs than Carberry did in two fewer innings.

And former England skipper Alec Stewart wouldn't be surprised to see Carberry jettisoned from the Test arena for a second time.

"Australia got the better of him – Mitchell Johnson especially on the angle," explained Stewart, who was a Surrey teammate of Carberry when the latter made his first class debut in the early noughties.

"When the ball comes at him from over the wicket from the left-hander, Carberry hasn't quite worked out a way of defending the ball."

Cricket writer Simon Hughes also believes the end could be nigh for Carberry, who cannot change the habits of a lifetime at his age.

"He looks comfortable at the crease, withstanding the pace and the pressure of opening, weaving away from the bumpers, unfurling occasional backfoot shots of authority," Hughes said.

"He reaches the apparent safety of the 20s and looks set for an innings of substance."

"Then the runs dry up."

He moves into the entrenchment stage, digging a hole from which he is reluctant to emerge.

"Soon he can barely see out."

"Against accurate, disciplined bowling he seems uncertain of the way out, so stands still."

"It plays into the bowlers' hands."

"His problem is he is such a rigid player. He is taut with determination and application."

"This is admirable and ensures he is a hard batsman to dig out, but an easy one to contain."

"He hits the ball only in certain areas: through mid-on, and behind square on both sides, usually with some force."

"Once those scoring areas are cut off or denied, he is stuck."

"What he needs is flexibility. With a slightly more relaxed body he would be able to use his arms and wrists to guide the ball into spaces, or persuade it into gaps for ones and twos, the staple diet of a long stayer."

"Singles get the hard-working batsman off strike for crucial rehabilitation at the non-striking end."

"Carberry rarely finds that luxury. He expends vast amounts of mental energy reaching 30 (2½ hours in the fourth Test) rehearsing shots between balls, steeling himself for the battle."

"So he becomes more susceptible to a lapse in concentration."

"He is mentally exhausted. Hence the habitual dismissal between 30 and 40."

WRITING ON WALL



Stewart expects Hampshire opener to be axed by England

"Carberry is 33. He has been around the block a few times. He knows all this. But it is another thing changing your method."

"He is destined, like Mark Ramprakash was, to be a richly talented player who never quite delivers the goods."

"Older dogs rarely learn new tricks."

The same could be said of Nick Compton, the Somerset opener

whose Test and first class averages are very similar to Carberry's.

Compton averages 31.93 from nine Tests, compared to Carberry's 28.75 from six Tests.

Carberry's first class average, from 268 innings, is 43.30, compared to Compton's 43.94 from 213 visits to the crease.

In that respect, Carberry and Compton might both find there is no way back for them.

There are still other options, one with Test experience and one without.

Yorkshire's Joe Root has opened in Test cricket, though was used down the order in the recent Ashes shambles.

Then there is Middlesex's Sydney-born Sam Robson, who is now available for England after representing Australia at Under-19 ODI level in 2007.

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Hampshire Cricket Spotlight

FOR CARBERRY?



JOY AND PAIN: Australia celebrate as Michael Carberry leaves the field after being bowled out by Ryan Harris, left, during the Ashes.

Robson was one of the leading scorers in the top flight of the County Championship last summer, hitting 129 against Surrey and 215 not out against Warwickshire in just over a week in May.

Hughes believes Root could be the solution if Carberry's Test career is deemed over.

"His batting may also be a little static at present," Hughes said.

"But first he is young. Second he is more relaxed. He does not visibly tire at the crease.

"You cannot see the strains of survival etched in his face.

"He will learn ways and means to increase the tempo and alleviate the slow suffocation that Australia are inflicting.

"Just give him time."

Time that Carberry might find he no longer has.

Bailey under threat

FORMER Hampshire batsman George Bailey could find himself in a similar position to his one-time Ageas Bowl colleague Michael Carberry.

Though he finished as one of England's top runscorers in the totally one-sided series, Carberry's immediate Test future remains unclear.

And the same applies to fellow thirtysomething Bailey, who made his Test debut in the first game of the 5-0 whitewash and went on to play in every crushing victory.

Bailey, below, finished his first ever Test series with 183 runs from eight innings at just 26.14 – and now could be dropped for the tour of South Africa next month.

Given the runs his fellow top order colleagues gouged themselves on against England, he will no doubt have been disappointed not to have joined in the fun.

His only half-century, 53, came in the Second Test when he had a licence to hit out as Australia chased quick runs.

Former Test batsman Tom Moody said the selectors had missed an opportunity to blood Bailey's Tasmanian colleague Alex Doolan in Sydney and that Bailey had been exposed as a batsman short of Test class.

"Missed opportunity for Bailey &



Doolan," he tweeted.

"The later [sic] should be making his debut today! Bailey selection only failure this summer!"

Bailey, who started the 2013 English season as Hampshire's overseas player, is likely to travel to South Africa next month, but only in his role as t20 captain for three games against the Proteas.

He then has another major engagement in March, when he is expected to lead his country in Bangladesh for the t20 World Cup.

There is still some doubt about that tournament taking place, though, due to continuing political unrest in the host nation.

Pakistan have still not decided whether to attend as a result. Doolan has never played Test cricket, but would have made his debut at Sydney had Shane Watson not recovered from a groin strain.

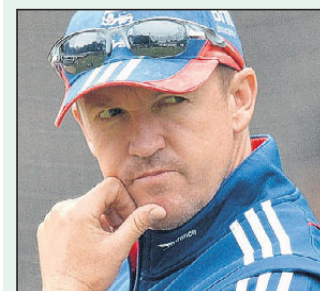
He is currently averaging 37.92 in first class cricket, compared to Bailey's 37.63.

The 28-year-old has scored only 391 runs at 39.10 for Tasmania this year, but the selectors consider his cool temperament and upright technique make him a strong chance for Test success.



EVASIVE ACTION: Michael Carberry dodges a bouncer during the Ashes series.

ANDY FLOWER ENGLAND HIGHS AND LOWS



HIGHS

WINNING THE ASHES IN AUSTRALIA

Flower's thorough planning and attention to detail were seen as vital factors as England ended a 24-year wait to win the Ashes on Australian soil. That they did it with three innings victories in a 3-1 success made the celebrations even sweeter.

TOP-RANKED TEST NATION

England took over from India as the world's top-ranked Test nation for the first time following a 4-0 series whitewash on home soil in 2011. Under Flower England also ascended to the top of the rankings in the one-day and Twenty20 international formats.

FIRST GLOBAL TROPHY

Flower was at the helm as England finally ended one of their most embarrassing records. England had never won a major global tournament until they beat Australia in the 2010 World Twenty20 final by seven wickets in Barbados.

ASHES HAT-TRICK

A 3-0 home series win over Australia may have been more hard-fought than the scoreline suggested, but it secured a hat-trick of Ashes series wins – a feat England had not managed since 1956.

CONQUERING INDIA

Alastair Cook's first Test series as captain was one to remember as England recovered from losing the first Test to win the series 2-1. England had not won in India since 1984/85 when they also bounced back to win 2-1.

LOWS

GIFTING THE ASHES BACK

The lowest point of Flower's tenure without question was a hapless and surprising dispirited England were thumped in Australia, handing back the Ashes before Christmas.

Question marks over Flower's future were raised for the first time as his team were dismantled.

A SUMMER TO FORGET

The summer of 2012 was one Flower will not remember fondly as England lost the number one Test ranking to South Africa following a 2-0 home series defeat. The loss came amid Kevin Pietersen's off-field dramas as he quit the limited overs formats, complained of unrest in the dressing room before being dropped following a texting controversy. The summer ended with captain Andrew Strauss retiring.

RUMBLING IN JAMAICA

After being handed interim charge of the England team following Peter Moores' messy exit, Flower watched his new side crumble to be all out for 51 against West Indies at Sabina Park. Defeat in the match led to 1-0 series defeat.

WORLD CUP EXIT

After a busy schedule – including their Ashes triumph in Australia – England suffered a meek quarter-final exit to co-hosts Sri Lanka at the World Cup. A tournament of mixed fortunes saw England tie with India, after the eventual winners made 338, only to also lose to Ireland after a Kevin O'Brien hit the fastest World Cup ton.

WHITWASH IN THE DESERT

England were beaten 3-0 by Pakistan in the United Arab Emirates as the tourists succumbed to the mystery spin of Saad Ajmal. Ajmal and fellow spinner Abdur Rehman combined for 43 wickets in the series.

CALL CRICKET WRITER SIMON WALTER ON 023 8042 4482

Hampshire Cricket Spotlight



Skipper refuses to back Pietersen

CAPTAIN Alastair Cook has refused to be drawn on Kevin Pietersen's England future, saying only that any major decision-making would happen once he returns from Australia.

Cook faced the media for the first time since reports emerged that team director Andy Flower was prepared to move forward without former Hampshire player Pietersen.

While Cook's appearance was ostensibly to preview the start of the one-day international series in Melbourne on Sunday, the fall-out from the 5-0 Ashes whitewash again took centre stage.

Pietersen's future is the lead act in that narrative, but Cook was unwilling to disclose any information on what might be the next chapter in what is already looming as a sorry saga.

In addition to being questioned about Pietersen's future, Cook was probed for closer information regarding the right-hander's attitude in the dressing room to his own relationship with him.

"It's very hard for me to talk to you the media about this. It's very hard," the 29-year-old skipper said.

"I can't do that. Confidentiality and stuff like that – what happens in the dressing room stays in the dressing room. I refuse to do that."

Asked if that could be construed as a failure to endorse Pietersen, he replied: "You can regard it as you want. As is the way with the media that happens."

Any decision over Pietersen's future, or on the other England players who struggled Down Under, will not be made until Cook returns home after the conclusion of the five-match ODI series on January 26.

The skipper is then set to meet with Flower and the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) to begin their series review.

Cook has already this week met with new ECB managing director Paul Downton, while he also spoke with Flower before he flew home from Sydney.

While Cook is fully aware of the importance of those pending discussions, he is determined to push them to the back of his mind for now as he plots a way to win the upcoming 50-over series against Australia.

"What is important for me is the one-day series at this precise moment in time," he said.

"We know that when I get home from this one-day series a lot of important decisions on how we want to go forward with this Test team, the one-day team and my future – all that kind of stuff – is very important."

The relevance of the ODI series is accentuated by the fact that the same grounds will host the World Cup in just over a year's time.

"My total focus has to be on us winning games of cricket in this series," he added.

"We have a World Cup in 2015 in exactly the same conditions as we are going to experience here and that has to be given my full thought."

"After this series then you go back on to how do we rebuild the Test side."



Broken bat should not symbolise end of



MUSEUM PIECE: Michael Carberry's broken bat from the fifth Ashes Test.

THE broken bat that that has come to symbolise England's Ashes debacle has been signed and donated to the Don Bradman Museum by Michael Carberry.

Inscribed with "To the Don Bradman Museum, 5th Test @SCG," and signed "Michael Carberry (England)," it will now reside in Bowral, New South Wales as a memento of England's latest Ashes whitewash.

But the question now is whether the broken willow, which snapped as Carberry played a forward defensive strokes against Ryan Harris, came during his final Test innings.

Carberry is preparing for the limited-overs leg of England's tour, which begins with the first of five one-day internationals this weekend.

Simon Walter

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CRICKET REPORTER

It was his 50-over performances at the end of last season against Australia, and particularly Mitchell Johnson, that won Carberry his place in England's Ashes team.

But his Test future has been the subject of much conjecture, despite finishing the series as England's second highest run scorer with only 13 runs less than his former Hampshire teammate Kevin Pietersen.

No doubt Carberry would have taken that before his first full series, especially as an opening batsman facing the best new-ball attack in the world in Johnson and Ryan Harris.

Naturally, he would have

hoped for a better return than an aggregate of 281 runs at 28.10, but that is not to be sniffed at, coming from one of England's most inexperienced players during their most ignominious Ashes tour.

When you consider that Carberry has scored more runs than fellow ever-present Alastair Cook and Ian Bell, he has not done that badly.

What stands against him is his failure to build on so many promising starts, which has always been one of his strengths for Hampshire.

Carberry reached 30 six times in ten Ashes innings, but his 60 in the first innings of the second Test in Adelaide was his highest score.

Add to those figures his one previous Test in Bangladesh and

EOIN Morgan does not suspect flagging attitudes will hinder England when they start to ramp up their World Cup preparations against Australia over the next month.

The majority of England's squad may still be reeling from their 5-0 Ashes whitewash but Morgan – one of seven new names to join the touring party for the five-match one-day international series, including Hampshire's Danny Briggs – knows they can not afford to dwell on the mistakes of the longer format.

That may be easier said than done – with barely a week passing between the 281-run fifth Test defeat in Sydney and this weekend's ODI opener in Melbourne – although Morgan has not sensed any malaise in the squad.

While the rigours of duty have at least physically told on Stuart Broad, who will be rested for the first two games of the series, Morgan believes everyone else is fit and ready to go toe to toe with Australia.

That is just as well according to the left-hander, who knows the upcoming five games will provide an important building block ahead of next winter's World Cup on these same grounds.

"There's about 400 days before the World Cup starts and it starts here in Melbourne," he said.

"It's really exciting and the platform we build here during this series is really important."

"It's important that we do learn from any mistakes that we do make and build confidence down in this part of the world."

Asked if the players he has joined were showing any signs of being scarred by their Ashes defeat, he added: "Absolutely not."

"The guys are good. We've had six or seven fresh faces come into the side who have brought a lot of energy, including myself."

"The guys are chomping at the bit to get involved. We've had a bit of time off and the young guys coming through are keen to score runs and take wickets."

"A lot of guys are excited to get this series started."

An England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) spokeswoman confirmed that Broad's absence was

THE WORLD CUP

NOW – MORGAN

CHANCE TO SHINE Hampshire spinner Danny Briggs.

only to allow him time to recover from his Ashes exertions and that he is due to be back for the third game in Sydney on January 19.

The 27-year-old was England's leading wicket-taker in the Ashes defeat and one of the few tourists to finish the series in some credit.

With James Anderson having returned home for his scheduled break, and Graeme Swann retired,

Broad's spell out means England will initially rely on an inexperienced bowling line-up.

Tim Bresnan and Steven Finn are easily the most capped frontline seamers, although the latter's career has stalled of late.

Finn was the only England quick who did not play in the Ashes and spent large parts of Friday's net session in consultation with

coaches Ashley Giles and David Saker, as well as skipper Alastair Cook.

Any issues Finn might have will now likely have to be ironed out in combat with Australia, rather than in training, with no other quick in the squad boasting more than late call-up Chris Woakes' 13 England ODI appearances.

It is a situation Morgan believes

Hampshire Cricket

Carbs' Test career

he has reached 30 eight times in 12 innings, but converted just one of those starts into a half century.

It is a familiar pattern that may indicate a mental block at the highest level or simply reflect a step up in standard, certainly against Australia.

There was never any let-up from the merciless seam attack of Johnson, Harris and Peter Siddle.

But Carberry handled Johnson better than anyone and no Australia bowler dismissed him more often than Shane Watson, who only took four wickets in the entire series – but accounted for the Hampshire man on no fewer than three occasions.

This suggests a dip in concentration after seeing off the main threats.

Certainly, Carberry does not come across attacks with such strength in depth in the second division of the LV County Championship, where he has played for Hampshire for the last two

seasons now.

When he reaches 30 for Hampshire he goes on to make a century as often as he is dismissed for less than 50.

But an Ashes series is the greatest Test for any batsman.

There is now pressure on England to replace 33 year-old Carberry with a more youthful partner for Alastair Cook.

Middlesex's Sam Robson and Warwickshire's Varun Chopra may get their chance, while Joe Root could reclaim his position alongside the captain.

But Carberry will have every right to feel hard done by if he is made one of the scapegoats for the shambles of the last seven weeks.

He is yet to play in a Test match on home soil but deserves the opportunity to start the English season by opening with Cook against Sri Lanka at The Oval, the ground where his career began, on May 22.



HOME COMFORTS: Michael Carberry deserves the chance of a Test match in England.

STARTS



Finn can overcome, despite admitting he got little chance to see how he had been progressing in Friday's training.

"I haven't seen very much of him. This has been our first training session as a squad," he said.

"I know Finny has been working really hard in the Test team and hopefully he'll make contri-

butions along the way in the one-day series."

Kevin Pietersen, whose England future remains the centre of much debate, has also been rested for the series to ensure the tourists will begin as underdogs.

Morgan believes the absence of England's more prominent names can work in their favour, though, as they look to blood

their younger players ahead of the World Cup.

That tactic paid dividends during last summer's 2-1 ODI series defeat against Australia when most significantly Ben Stokes, and Boyd Rankin, proved their credentials for an Ashes call-up.

Briggs has a chance to impress as he is the only slow left-armers in the ODI squad.

The 22-year-old has only ever played one ODI, and that was almost two years ago – against Pakistan in Dubai in February 2012.

On that occasion Briggs took 2-39 off ten overs, before Pietersen slammed 130 to guide England to victory.

Briggs has since played six t20 internationals for England.

Kent's James Tredwell offers a more experienced spinning option in the current series against Australia, but he is 31 and therefore Briggs is a better long-term bet.

Morgan hopes another young gun can take the opportunity to press their claims for a World Cup place over the next few games, suggesting already that the selectors would have a difficult task narrowing the squad down to 15 players.

"With the hectic nature of the past 12 months with Test cricket, there have been a couple of one-day series where guys have been rested here and there and created these opportunities," he said.

"It's fantastic for the squad that the guys coming in have been doing so well. It's allowing us to build a great base, because we will be able to take 15 to a World Cup.

"It's going to be a tight squeeze picking 15 cricketers, because we could potentially take 20.

"The last series that we played, we played against a very formidable Australian side and, as an inexperienced side, we certainly put up a good fight.

"We were disappointed not to win that series.

"Looking toward the 2015 World Cup, there's a long time and a lot of cricket to be played but certainly we have a good platform with the group of players that we have."

Local and national football fixtures for the week ahead

Monday, January 13

BARCLAYS PREMIER LEAGUE

Aston Villa v Arsenal.

BARCLAYS U21 PREMIER LEAGUE

Southampton U21 v Man Utd U21 (7.30pm).

SKRILL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

South: Boreham Wood v Havant & Waterlooville.

CALOR SOUTHERN LEAGUE

Premier Division: St Albans v AFC Totton

SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE

Division One: Team Solent v Amesbury Town.

Tuesday, January 14

FA CUP

Third round: Bournemouth v Burton Albion, Charlton v Oxford Utd, Birmingham v Bristol Rovers.

Third round replay: Fulham v Norwich, Milton Keynes Dons v Wigan, Peterborough v Kidderminster, Plymouth v Port Vale, Preston v Ipswich, Sheff Wed v Macclesfield, Watford v Bristol City.

SKY BET FOOTBALL LEAGUE

League 1: Stevenage v Swindon, Walsall v Oldham.

SKRILL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

Premier: Forest Green v Grimsby, Gateshead v Aldershot, Welling v Hyde, Braintree Town v Cambridge Utd.

South: Basingstoke Town v Whitehawk, Eastleigh v Dover, Farnborough v Ebbsfleet.

CALOR SOUTHERN LEAGUE

Premier Division: Bashley v Corby, Bideford v Poole Town, Burnham v Hitchin, Stourbridge v Hungerford.

Division One South & West: Tiverton v Godalming.

SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE

SWL Cup, semi-final: Petersfield Town v Whitchurch Utd (at Alesford Town FC).

Premier Division: AFC Portchester v Sholing, Bemerton HH v Folland Sports, Fareham Town v Brockenhurst, Hordean v Moneyfields, Lymington Town v Winchester City, Newport IoW v Bournemouth Poppies.

Division One: Andover NS v Stockbridge, Cowes Sports v East Cowes Vics, Hayling Utd v US Portsmouth, Laverstock & Ford v Pewsey Vale.

RUSSELL COTES CUP

Quarter-final: Fareham Town v Romsey Town.

WYVERN COMBINATION LEAGUE

Premier Division: New Milton v Winchester City.

Wednesday, January 15

FA CUP

Third round replay: Man City v Blackburn.

CALOR SOUTHERN LEAGUE

Premier Division: Frome v Banbury.

Division One South & West: Swindon Supermarine v Shortwood.

SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE

Premier Division: Brockenhurst v Blackfield & Langley.

RUSSELL COTES CUP

Quarter-final: Christchurch v Gosport Borough.

PUMA ENGINEERING HAMPSHIRE PREMIER LEAGUE

Premier Division: Locks Heath v QK Southampton.

SOUTHAMPTON SENIOR CUP

Quarter-final: Sholing Res v Winchester Castle.

WYVERN COMBINATION LEAGUE

Premier Division: AFC Portchester v Moneyfields, Sholing v Dorchester Town.

Division One East: Alton Town v Petersfield Town.

Wyvern Shield League Phase: C. Fawley v Folland Sports.

Thursday, January 16

SKRILL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

Premier: Alfreton Town v Tamworth.

Saturday, January 18

(FL games 3pm ko unless stated otherwise)

BARCLAYS PREMIER LEAGUE

Arsenal v Fulham, Crystal Palace v Stoke, Liverpool v Aston Villa (5.30pm), Man City v Cardiff, Norwich v Hull, Sunderland v SAINTS (12.45pm), West Ham v Newcastle.

SKY BET FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Championship: Barnsley v Blackpool, Birmingham v Yeovil, Bournemouth v Watford, Burnley v Sheff Wed, Derby v Brighton, Doncaster v Wigan, Leeds v Leicester (12.15pm), Middlesbrough v Charlton, Millwall v Ipswich, Nottm Forest v Blackburn, QPR v Huddersfield, Reading v Bolton.

League 1: Bristol City v Milton Keynes Dons, Carlisle v Colchester, Crawley Town v

Wolverhampton, Crewe v Leyton Orient,

Gillingham v Swindon, Peterborough v Tranmere, Port Vale v Oldham, Preston v Coventry, Sheff Utd v Bradford, Shrewsbury v Rotherham, Stevenage v Notts County, Walsall v Brentford.

League 2: Bury v Burton Albion, Cheltenham v Accrington Stanley, Exeter v Morecambe, Fleetwood Town v Hartlepool, Newport County v Dag & Red, Portsmouth v Mansfield, Rochdale v Plymouth, Scunthorpe v AFC Wimbledon, Southend v Chesterfield, Torquay v Northampton, Wycombe v Oxford Utd, York v Bristol Rovers.

BARCLAYS U18 PREMIER LEAGUE

West Brom U18 v Southampton U18 (11am).

SKRILL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

Premier: Aldershot v Kidderminster, Braintree Town v Lincoln City, Chester FC v Barnet, FC Halifax v Cambridge Utd, Grimsby v Gateshead, Hereford v Southport, Hyde v Forest Green, Luton v Wrexham, Nuneaton v Macclesfield, Salisbury v Dartford, Welling v Woking.

South: Bath City v Bromley, Dorchester v Dover, Eastbourne Borough v Basingstoke Town, Eastleigh v Gosport Borough, Ebbsfleet v Bishops Cleeve, Hayes & Yeading v Farnborough, Maidenhead v Boreham Wood, Staines v Havant & Waterlooville, Sutton v Weston-super-Mare, Tonbridge Angels v Concord, Whitehawk v Chelmsford.

CALOR SOUTHERN LEAGUE

Premier Division: AFC Totton v Chesham, Arlesey v Weymouth, Bashley v Hitchin, Bedford v Hungerford, Biggleswade v Truro City, Cambridge City v Burnham, Corby v Redditch, Hemel Hempstead v Frome, Poole Town v Banbury, St Albans v St Neots, Stourbridge v Bideford.

Division One South & West: Cinderford v Bridgwater, Clevedon v Evesham, Didcot v Stratford, Fleet Town v Guildford, Godalming v North Leigh, Mangotsfield v Tiverton, Paulton Rovers v Yate, Shortwood v Merthyr Town, Taunton v Cirencester, Thatcham v Bishops Cleeve, Wimborne v Swindon Supermarine.

FA VASE

Fourth round: Moneyfields or Bitton v Hadleigh Utd (TBC), Hallen v Alesford Town, Larkhall v Blackfield & Langley, Sholing v Hullbridge Sports.

SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE

Premier Division: AFC Portchester v Christchurch, Brockenhurst v Whitchurch, Fareham v Bournemouth Poppies, Fawley AFC v Lymington Town, Folland Sports v Winchester City, Hamworthy Utd v Verwood, Hordean v Newport IoW, Totton & Eling v Romsey Town.

Division One: Amesbury v Ringwood, Andover NS v Hayling Utd, Cowes Sports v Stockbridge, Hythe & Dibden v Andover Town, Laverstock & Ford v Fleet Spurs, Team Solent v Petersfield Town, US Portsmouth v East Cowes Vics.

PUMA ENGINEERING HPL

Premier Division: AFC Stoneham v Otterbourne, Bournemouth Sports v Winchester Castle, Fleetlands v Liss Athletic, Overton v Clanfield, Paulsgrove v Headley Utd, QK Southampton v Liphook Utd.

Division One: Four Marks v Durlay, Hamble Club v Upham, Infinity v Michelmersh & Timsbury, University of Portsmouth v Lyndhurst.

Combination: Hedge End Rangers v

Paulsgrove, Liss Athletic v Clanfield, Michelmersh & Timsbury v Hamble Club, Otterbourne v Fleetlands.

PEHPL Cup, quarter-final: Baffins Milton Rovers v AFC Aldermaston.

SOUTHAMPTON SENIOR CUP

Quarter-finals: AFC Hittingbury v Hedge End Rangers, Golden Common v Locks Heath.

WILTSHIRE SENIOR CUP

Quarter-finals: Bradford Town v Pewsey Vale, Downton v Bemerton HH.

NORTH HANTS INTERMEDIATE CUP

Fourth round: Broughton v Andover Lions, Crusaders v Overton Utd Res, Winchester Castle Res v Sherborne St John.

ALDERSHOT JUNIOR CUP

Quarter-final: Bagshot Res v Liphook Utd Res.

WYVERN COMBINATION LEAGUE

Wyvern Challenge Cup, second round:

Alesford Town v Follands Sports.

Division One East: Newport IoW v Locks Heath, Tadley Calleva v Hordean.

Division One West: Christchurch v Team Solent, Lymington Town v Hythe & Dibden, Romsey Town v Laverstock & Ford.

Wyvern Shield League Phase: D. Petersfield Town v East Cowes Vics, C. Ringwood v Alton Town, B. Verwood v US Portsmouth.

England can win World Cup – Clarke

CAPTAIN Michael Clarke believes England will be one of the major contenders to win next year's World Cup in Australia and New Zealand.

The former Hampshire batsman has spent the majority of the winter undermining Alastair Cook's side during the 5-0 Ashes defeat, but he believes his opposite number could yet enjoy far more happier times in the Antipodes.

Despite the chaos that has enveloped England, Clarke, pictured below, believes they have a 50-over side to be feared ahead of their series opener in Melbourne on Sunday.

The 32-year-old expects they will show that over the course of the next five games – at venues that will host the World Cup in just over a year – and has warned his side that their own credentials will be significantly tested.

"England has got a very good one-day line-up," he said.

"They've got some really destructive batters and plenty of pace and bounce with their bowling as well.

"This is an important series because we will be playing in the same facilities that we will play the World Cup in, the same pitches, and against an opposition that is going to play a huge role.

"I think England is going to be extremely tough to beat in the World Cup.

"This is going to be great preparation. We will have to be at our best."

Australia sit second in the International Cricket Council's one-day rankings and just marginally above England.

Both teams could finish the series as the world's top-ranked 50-over team – albeit they would need the right set of results in this series as well as in India's concurrent five ODIs in New Zealand.

Clarke named his starting XI for Sunday's match at the MCG a day early with James Pattinson and Shaun Marsh the players to miss out, while Mitchell Johnson is being rested after his Ashes exertions.

That means David Warner will make a return to the ODI set-up for the first time since his controversial Champions Trophy last June.

Warner aimed a punch at Joe Root in a Birmingham bar after Australia's group-stage defeat – an incident which prompted him to lose his place in all formats before a return to form this winter.

Clarke confirmed Warner would open the batting alongside Aaron Finch with Shane Watson – who hit a match-winning unbeaten 161 when these sides last met at the MCG in 2011 – at three.

"It's just what we feel is the best XI for this first game," Clarke said.

"I think the wicket looks really good, we think it's going to be a little bit two paced. We think this is the best team for this first match."



JOHN Beattie claimed his second Hampshire Cross Country Championship title last weekend – seven years after his first.

Here, the *Sports Pink* looks back at the previous results this millennium and how the winning 2014 times compared with previous years.

Hampshire Cross-Country Championships Senior Men's Winners

2014 John Beattie	Newham	38.58
2013 Steve Dawes	Guernsey Island	39.01
2012 Lee Merrien	Guernsey Island	36.49
2011 Steve Dawes	Guernsey Island	37.01
2010 CANCELLED		
2009 Toby Lambert	Winchester	37.02
2008 Lee Merrien	Guernsey Island	36.37
2007 John Beattie	Winchester	43.29
2006 Lee Merrien	Guernsey Island	42.46
2005 Lee Merrien	Guernsey Island	37.50
2004 Toby Lambert	Alton Runners	36.55
2003 Lee Merrien	Guernsey Island	37.36
2002 Chris Thompson	Aldershot	36.37
2001 Chris Thompson	Aldershot	39.26
2000 Nicholas Anderson	Winchester	35.57

Senior Women's Winners

2014 Louise Small	Aldershot	29.50
2013 Louise Perrio	Guernsey Island	28.32
2012 Louise Damen	Winchester	28.42
2011 Louise Perrio	Guernsey	29.11
2009 Louise Perrio	Guernsey	30.19
2008 Louise Damen	Winchester	27.44
2007 Jo McGarry	Jersey Spartan	29.54
2006 Jo McGarry	Jersey Spartan	31.54
2005 Jo McGarry	Jersey Spartan	28.50
2004 Bryony Frost	Isle of Wight	28.32
2003 Lucy Elliott	Shaftesbury BH	29.04
2002 Kath Bailey	Havant	30.01
2001 Kath Bailey	Havant	25.38
2000 Megan Clark	Oxford University	27.32

Under-20 Men's Winners

2014 Toby Smith	Aldershot	30.51
2013 Harrison Curling	Aldershot	30.37
2012 Harvey Dixon	Aldershot	26.40
2011 Harvey Dixon	Aldershot	22.15
2009 Tom Anderson	Winchester	26.33
2008 Phil Bernsten	Andover	26.00
2007 Mark Mercier	Guernsey Island	34.05
2006 Martin Mashford	Aldershot	33.11
2005 Martin Mashford	Aldershot	26.36
2004 James Ellis	Aldershot	25.36
2003 David Udall	Aldershot	26.04
2002 Phil Banks	Aldershot	25.54
2001 Phil Banks	Aldershot	29.54
2000 Chris Thompson	Aldershot	26.48

Under-20 Women's Winners

2014 Chloe Turmel	Jersey Spartan	27.10
2013 Chloe Turmel	Jersey Spartan	27.43
2012 Jess Chen	City of Portsmouth	27.44
2011 Jess Andrews	Aldershot	24.19
2009 Louise Webb	Team Soton	28.33
2008 Emma Pallant	Aldershot	21.19
2007 Steph Twell	Aldershot	25.02
2006 India Lee	Winchester	28.20
2005 Laura Brenton	Team Solent	23.28
2004 Laura Brenton	Team Solent	23.10
2003 Bryony Frost	Isle of Wight	25.15
2002 Kathryn Frost	Isle of Wight	28.35
2001 Gemma Greenfield	Aldershot	26.17
2000 Gemma Greenfield	Aldershot	28.40



WINNER: John Beattie. Order no: 17759826



MUDDY HELL: Runners tackle the rain-soaked Fleming Park course at this year's Hampshire Cross Country Championships. Daily Echo pictures by Matt Watson Order no: 17759804



BUNCHED UP: Competitors in the under-17 boys' event.

Order no: 17759838

RULES



Klitschko is the kingpin

LONG gone are the days when even the most hardened of the sport's enthusiasts would be able to reel off the roll of honour of reigning boxing world champions.

The ludicrous sprouting of so-called 'Super' title belts and the increasing prevalence of interim title-holders means at the last count the sport had more than 80 world title claimants within the four major sanctioning bodies alone.

As the sport gears up to start another new year, the *Sports Pink* attempts to separate the genuine champions from the pretenders by listing the generally accepted world number ones at each of the 17 weights. In the first instalment, we look from heavy-weight down to light-welterweight:



HEAVYWEIGHT: Wladimir Klitschko: The retirement of his elder brother leaves Klitschko, pictured, current holder of the IBF and WBO belts, out on his own at the top of the heavyweight division and with a fine chance of unifying all four titles, with the WBC and WBA titles currently vacant. It is hard to see a legitimate challenger to Klitschko's dominance with the exception of talented Bulgarian Kubrat Pulev, who should be next in line for a shot.

CRUISERWEIGHT: The Cuban-born, German-based Yoan Pablo Hernandez, who has held the IBF version of the title for two years, probably deserves his place at the top of a distinctly ordinary division. Fellow German Marco Huck has struggled through two recent WBO title defences since returning from heavyweight and looks a fading force.

LIGHT-HEAVYWEIGHT: The extraordinary Bernard Hopkins continues to limp on as IBF champion but few would deny the real power lies in hard-hitting young pretenders Adonis Stevenson and Sergey Kovalev. WBC champion Stevenson deserves to be ranked at world number one at present but a showdown with WBO champion Kovalev would settle the matter once and for all.

SUPER-MIDDLEWEIGHT: Unbeaten Andre Ward reigns supreme at the top of the 12-stone division with his only real challenge coming from Britain – once Carl Froch and George Groves manage to settle their little domestic matter. Ward, who has already beaten Froch, says he is considering a fight with Groves and it could happen if the Froch-Groves match is not signed soon.

MIDDLEWEIGHT: Argentina's WBC champion Sergio Martinez clings on to his number one slot on account of an unbeaten reign stretching back four years. But increasingly he is being pushed for the honour by unbeaten and hard-hitting Gennady Golovkin, the current holder of the WBA crown.

LIGHT-MIDDLEWEIGHT: As if Floyd Mayweather really needed to worry about weight divisions, he remains (nominally at least) the WBC and WBA 'Super' light-middleweight champion. Flitting between weights as he does – he also holds the WBC's welterweight belt – it only serves to underline the insignificance of the sport's sanctioning bodies.

WELTERWEIGHT: Assuming we are to accept Mayweather as light-middleweight number one, then the welterweight honour must fall to Timothy Bradley, who retained his unbeaten record with a tight points win over Manny Pacquiao conqueror Juan Manuel Marquez. Marcos Maidana is another genuine contender after his shock win over Adrien Broner.

LIGHT-WELTERWEIGHT: Danny Garcia, current holder of the WBC and WBA 'Super' titles, is the best of the light-welterweight bunch, in front of big-punching Argentinian Lucas Matthysse and Lamont Peterson, who has somehow managed to cling on to the IBF version of the title despite drug test issues.

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	02	All Day Mystery Tour	£20.00
	02	Knit & Stitch It, Farnborough	£28.00
	12	Morgan Motor Company	£31.00
	15	Bournemouth & Swanage	£17.00
	19	Blenheim Palace	£34.00
	19	Oxford	£20.00
	22	Brugge via Eurotunnel	£40.00
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	25	Adinkerke via Eurotunnel	£40.00
	26	London for Shopping	£20.00

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Cardiff	0	West Ham	2
HT 0-1		C Cole 42 Noble 90 Att 27,755	
Everton	2	Norwich	0
Barry 23 Lallana 59 HT 1-0		Att 36,827	
Fulham	1	Sunderland	4
Sidwell 52		Johnson 29,69,85 pen Kl 41	
HT 0-2		Att 25,564	
Hull	0	Chelsea	2
HT 0-0		Hazard 56 Torres 87 Att 24,924	
Man Utd	L	Swansea	L
HT 1-1			
SAINTS	1	W.B.A.	0
Lallana 66 HT 0-0		Att 28,610	
Spurs	2	Crystal P	0
Eriksen 50, Defoe 73 HT 0-0		Att 36,102	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Chelsea	21	9	1	0	22	8	5	3	3	18	11	46
Arsenal	20	7	2	1	18	6	7	1	2	21	12	45
Man City	20	10	0	0	38	6	4	2	4	19	17	44
Everton	21	7	3	1	21	9	4	5	1	13	10	41
Spurs	21	5	3	3	13	13	7	1	2	13	12	40
Liverpool	20	9	0	1	27	6	3	3	4	19	17	39
Man Utd	20	4	2	4	12	10	6	2	2	21	14	34
Newcastle	20	5	3	2	17	10	5	0	5	12	15	33
SAINTS	21	5	3	3	17	12	3	4	1	10	11	30
Hull	21	5	3	3	15	8	1	2	7	7	19	23
A. Villa	20	2	2	6	7	14	4	3	3	12	11	23
Stoke	20	4	5	1	11	7	1	2	7	8	23	22
Swansea	20	2	4	4	18	17	3	2	5	8	11	21
W.B.A.	21	3	4	4	12	12	1	6	4	11	16	21
Norwich	21	3	3	4	10	11	2	2	7	7	24	20
Fulham	21	3	1	7	14	22	3	0	7	8	24	19
West Ham	21	2	3	5	12	16	2	3	6	9	14	18

Cardiff	21	3	3	5	10	17	1	3	6	5	17	18
Sunderland	21	2	1	7	10	17	2	4	5	9	17	17
Crystal P	21	3	2	5	8	14	2	0	9	5	17	17

SkyBet Championship

Blackburn	1	Doncaster	0
Gesteade 45 HT 1-0		Att 13,954	
Blackpool	0	Middlesbrough	0
HT 0-0		Carayol 84,90 Att 14,421	
Bolton	1	Nottm Forest	1
Mills 75 HT 0-0		Paterson 47 Att 17,046	
Brighton	1	Birmingham	0
Lopez 58 HT 0-0		Att 26,796	
Charlton	P	Barnsley	P
Postponed - due to waterlogged pitch.			
Huddersfield	1	Millwall	0
Wells 90 HT 0-0		Att 12,651	
Ipswich	1	Q.P.R.	0
Smith 90 HT 0-0		Kranjcar 52, O'Neill 66 Traore 74 Att 18,369	
Sheff Wed	6	Leeds Utd	0
R Johnson 20, Nuhliu 45 Wickham 50, Maguire 67 Lavery 80,90 HT 2-0		Att 21,224	
Watford	0	Reading	1
HT 0-1		Gorkiss 5 Att 15,725	
Wigan	3	Cherries	0
Fortune 6, Ward 58 og Gomez 90 HT 1-0		Att 12,709	
Yeovil	1	Burnley	0
Moore 80 HT 0-1		Ings 19, Vokes 62 Att 6,293	

	HOME						AWAY						
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Leicester	25	10	2	1	27	13	7	1	4	19	14	54	
Burnley	25	8	4	0	21	7	6	4	3	17	12	50	
Q.P.R.	25	9	2	1	16	4	5	3	13	11	49		
Derby City	25	5	3	4	23	18	8	2	3	26	16	44	
Nottm For	25	6	4	2	18	11	4	7	2	17	14	41	
Brighton	25	5	5	3	19	13	5	4	3	11	9	39	
Reading	25	5	5	2	18	12	5	3	5	14	17	38	
Blackburn	25	7	3	3	18	10	3	4	5	13	18	37	
Ipswich	25	6	3	4	21	15	3	6	3	16	15	36	
Wigan	24	6	5	2	19	13	4	1	6	9	10	36	
Leeds Utd	25	6	3	3	20	12	4	2	7	15	22	35	
Huddersfild	25	6	4	3	23	15	3	3	6	11	14	34	
Middlesbro	25	5	5	2	22	12	3	4	6	18	21	33	
Blackpool	25	5	4	4	13	13	3	4	5	12	18	32	
Watford	24	4	3	6	17	16	3	6	2	18	14	30	
CHERRIES	25	5	2	6	16	15	3	4	6	15	29	30	
Birmingham	25	2	6	4	15	12	5	2	6	15	18	29	
Bolton	25	2	6	3	16	14	4	2	6	14	21	28	
Sheff Wed	24	4	3	5	22	15	1	7	4	9	17	25	
Charlton	24	3	4	5	11	14	2	5	5	11	16	24	
Millwall	25	4	3	5	16	20	1	4	8	10	30	22	
Doncaster	25	4	2	6	11	19	1	4	8	8	24	21	
Yeovil	24	2	2	8	8	15	2	3	7	11	23	17	
Barnsley	24	2	5	5	12	23	1	3	8	9	19	17	

SkyBet League One

Bradford	1	Bristol City	1
Hanson 1 HT 1-1		Wagstaff 11 Att 13,050	
Brentford	2	Port Vale	0
Trotta 30 Grigg 88 HT 1-0		Att 8,327	
Colchester	3	Gillingham	0
Watt 50, Morrison 87 Sears 90 HT 0-0		Att 3,819	
Leyton O	4	Carlisle	0
Cuthbert 43, Ness 47 Listie 66, Coulthirst 90 HT 1-0		Att 5,279	
M K Dons	3	Shrewsbury	2
Alli 4 Long 21 Bowditch 75 HT 2-1		Woods 7 Jacobson 86 Att 7,408	
Notts Cnty	2	Sheff Utd	1
Showunmi 26 Fotheringham 68 HT 1-1		Coady 2 Att 8,564	
Oldham	1	Stevenage	0
Wesolowski 13 HT 1-0		Att 3,460	
Rotherham	4	Crewe	2
Agard 29 Fracklington 68 pen,90 Revell 74 HT 1-1		Inman 12 Mellor 61	
Swindon	2	Peterboro	1
Ranger 28, Kasim 70 HT 1-0		Knight-Perceval 79 Att 7,794	
Tranmere	1	Walsall	1
Stockton 78 HT 0-1		Lalkovic 19 Att 4,871	
Wolves	2	Preston	0
Edwards 28, Evans 55 HT 1-0		Att 20,434	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Brentford	25	10	1	2	25	10	7	3	2	19	13	55
Leyton O	25	7	2	2	24	10	9	4	1	30	13	54

Wolves	26	9	3	2	23	8	6	4	2	18	11	52
Preston	25	5	5	2	17	15	8	3	2	18	11	47
Rotherham	25	4	6	3	23	22	7	2	3	19	12	41
Peterboro	25	7	1	4	13	12	5	2	6	24	20	39
Walsall	25	5	2	4	13	13	5	6	3	15	10	38
Swindon	24	9	1	2	28	15	2	3	7	14	17	37
Port Vale	25	6	3	3	19	16	5	0	8	17	23	36
M K Dons	24	7	3	3	24	16	3	2	6	15	18	35
Coventry	24	7	3	3	30	27	5	3	3	22	15	32
Bradford	25	4	6	3	22	14	3	5	4	14	16	32
Colchester	25	5	3	5	18	17	2	7	3	13	15	31
Crawley	23	5	4	4	13	15	2	4	4	12	15	29
Gillingham	26	5	4	5	18	18	3	1	8	15	27	29
Oldham	24	4	3	4	11	11	3	3	7	16	21	27
Carlisle	25	5	2	5	17	22	2	4	7	9	21	27
Shrewsbury	26	4	4	6	12	12	2	4	6	14	20	26
Sheff Utd	25	5	4	3	16	12	1	3	9	8	21	25
Tranmere	25	2	5	5	15	25	4	2	7	14	20	25
Notts Cnty	26	6	1	6	20	14	1	2	10	12	25	24
Crewe	25	4	4	4	13	19	2	2	9	11	32	24
Bristol City	24	3	5	5	17	18	1	6	4	17	19	23
Stevenage	24	2	2	6	10	17	3	2	9	12	26	19

*Coventry deducted 10 points for entering administration

SkyBet League Two

AFC Wimbledon	0	Torquay	2
HT 0-2		Pearce 29 Stockley 43 Att 4,339	
Acc Stanley	3	Newport County	0
Murphy 33,88 Naismith 44 HT 2-1		Burge 71, Minshall 90 Att 1,318	
Bristol R	2	Exeter	0
O'Toole 21 pen,90 HT 1-1		Brown 20 og	
Burton Albion	2	Cheltenham	0
Knowles 72,85 HT 0-0		Harrison 62 Att 2,510	
Chesterfield	4	Bury	0
Roberts 16, O'Shea 65 Richards 76, Gardner 86 HT 1-0		Att 6,053	
Dagenham	0	Fleetwood Town	1
HT 0-0		Ball 74 Att 1,679	
Hartlepool	0	Rochdale	3
G Donnelly 50, Cavanagh 63 Cummins 90 Att 3,685			
HT 0-0		Hayes 9,74 Att 4,115	
Mansfield	0	Scunthorpe	2
HT 0-1		Ellison 78 HT 0-1	
Morecambe	1	Wycombe	0
HT 0-1		Cowan-Hall 41	
HT 0-0		Bowman 68 Fletcher 70 pen Att 4,448	
Oxford Utd	0	POMPEY	0
HT 0-0		Att 8,443	
Plymouth	1	Southend	1
Blizzard 65 HT 0-0		Hurst 68 Att 7,088	



GETTING SHIRTY: Hull City's Jake Livermore and Chelsea's David Luiz, right, at the KC Stadium today.

	HOME						AWAY						
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Scunthorpe	25	7	2	2	16	9	6	2	22	15	47		
Burton	25	7	3	4	15	12	6	3	2	14	11	45	
Chesterfield	24	7	5	2	20	9	5	3	2	17	10	44	
Rochdale	25	9	1	3	26	15	4	3	5	12	16	43	
Southend	25	6	3	3	16	10	6	3	4	15	12	42	
Fleetwood	24	6	2	4	26	19	7	0	5	12	10	41	
Oxford Utd	24	4	5	5	14	14	6	4	0	20	7	39	
Newport	24	7	1	2	22	11	3	7	4	12	16	38	
Morecambe	27	5	5	4	19	17	5	2	6	12	18	37	
Dagenham	26	7	2	3	17	8	2	5	7	15	24	34	
Plymouth	25	6	4	3	11	10	3	3	6	12	16	34	
Cheltenham	25	3	7	3	18	17	5	2	5	14	18	33	
Exeter	25	4	1	6	11	16	5	4	5	20	18	32	
York	26	5	4	3	15	11	2	6	6	17	21	31	
Wimbledon	25	5	4	4	16	13	3	6	3	11	16	31	
Hartlepool	25	2	6	13	17	3	5	4	5	14	14	31	
Mansfield	26	2	4	6	14	18	5	4	5	12	17	29	
Wycombe	24	3	3	6	12	17	4	4	4	18	16	28	
Bury	25	4	6	3	16	14	2	3	7	14	20	27	
POMPEY	25	5	2	6	16	17	1	7	4	13	21	27	
Bristol R	24	5	4	2	15	10	1	4	8	7	16	26	
Acc Stanley	25	3	6	5	18	19	3	2	6	11	18	26	
Torquay	26	2	7	4	12	18	4	1	8	15	22	26	
Northampton	25	3	4	4	12	15	2	3	9	7	18	22	